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Presented on behalf of Plaintiff

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
WESTERN DIVISION**

R. CAMOU, Plaintiff, v. ROBERT LUNA, KATHRYN BARGER, JANICE HAHN, HOLLY MITCHELL, HILDA SOLIS, LINDEY HORVATH, HUGO MACIAS, and 10 UNKNOWN NAMED DEFENDANTS, 1-10, Defendants.	2:24-cv-05748-SPG(AJRx) EXHIBITS 1-4 TO THIRD AMENDED COMPLAINT Judge Sherilyn Peace Garnett
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EXHIBIT 1

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION



Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION

INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS

Welcome to the Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections webpage. We hope that you will find it to be an indispensable resource in meeting your informational needs. As you experience this website, you will find valuable links intended to support you in acquiring the information and assistance you are seeking. We invite you to learn more about the Commission and thank you for visiting the Commission webpage.

Current Agenda



Approved Minutes



2023 GOALS

1. Engage entities responsible for enforcement of existing State/County standards for humane and constitutional conditions inside the county jails, including:

- a. Department of Health Services (DHS) and Correctional Health Services (CHS)
- b. Civilian Oversight Commission (COC)
- c. Board of State and Community Corrections
- d. Jail Closure Implementation Team
- e. Court lock ups and Court leadership

2. Monitoring quality of access, treatment, and outcomes related to medical care and mental health care.

- a. Underlying causes of in-custody deaths deemed natural by the Medical Examiner.
- b. Regular meetings with the Department of Health Services and Correctional Health Services (CHS)
- c. Monitor mental health patient rights and access to mental health services.

3. Seeking feedback and making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on areas of concern regarding the closure of Men's Central Jail (MCJ) and implementation of the Care First, Jail Last plan as it impacts jail conditions and community capacity.

4. Evaluate expansion and targeting of programming in the jails, including access, retention, and outcomes of programming.

5. Periodic direct engagement with the Board of Supervisors on areas of concern.

6. Conduct periodic self-assessment of the commission's impact on jail conditions to determine the extent at which we may need to advocate for changes to statute.

**SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION****COMMISSION MEETINGS**

The Sybil Brand Commission meets the first Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

The public is welcome to attend the Commission Meetings.

AUTHORITY

The Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections is authorized by Chapter 2.82 of the Los Angeles County Code.

HELPFUL LINKS

- [AIDS Hotline](#)
- [Alcohol and Drug Programs](#)
- [Commission for Children and Families](#)
- [Commission on Disabilities](#)
- [Department of Children and Family Services](#)
- [Department of Mental Health](#)
- [Department of Probation](#)
- [Los Angeles County Superior Court](#)
- [Office of Childcare Programs](#)
- [Planned Parenthood Los Angeles](#)
- [Rape Hotline](#)
- [Sexually Transmitted Disease Program](#)
- [LASD Inmate Information](#)
- [Teen Help Adolescent Resources](#)
- [Victim Impact Program for Sex Crimes and Child Abuse](#)

CONTACT US

Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

**SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION**

(213) 633-5102

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COUNTY INFORMATION

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PREVIOUS INSPECTION 9/7/202
Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections

Courts Jails X Sheriff Stations

COMMISSIONER(S): Sherman, Grills, Veral

TIME 8a-10a

DATE 1/31/2022

FACILITY NAME:	MCJ
ADDRESS:	/ LASD SUPERVISOR CONTACTED: Watch Commander on Duty contacted via phone the next day to report findings and areas for followup.
Census:	(Capacity: _____) (Current Census: (_____))
Location(s) Inspected:	Modules 4500, 9300
Issues Reported to:	<input type="checkbox"/> BOS <input type="checkbox"/> Officer in Charge <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LASD <input type="checkbox"/> ISD <input type="checkbox"/> OIG <input type="checkbox"/> COC

RATING: S = Satisfactory U = Unsatisfactory CA = Corrective Action Needed N/A = Not Applicable

ITEMS	RATING	COMMENTS
1. Conditions of Confinement		
Cells/Toilets/Sinks	U	At least 4 non-working toilets in 9300; plastic wrap covered over the top. Toilets said to be not working in 9400.
Showers (water temperature, rust, mold etc.)	U	9300: Black mold all over the shower ceiling, dripping down with condensation. No hot water for showers. Near microscopic sized worms come out of the shower heads in 9300. Unable to confirm during the inspection.
Crowding	U	People incarcerated in 9300 and 4500 reported insufficient access to outdoor recreation time. For some it has been months.
Cleanliness/Graffiti	U	Significant build up of trash outside cells; little to no cleaning inside or outside cells
Safety, Conflict, Tension		Tensions and conflict between deputies and incarcerated persons observed and reported in 9500.
Common Areas		
Air Quality/Temperature	U	See below
Deputy/Detainee Relations (incl. specific incidents or allegations of misconduct)	U	Several complaints re: concerns of retaliation in 9300
Strip Search Issues		
Access (Drinking Water)		9500: No hot water is being dispensed from combination toilet/faucets, which incarcerated persons state is being used to eat soup.
Access (Mail/Reading Materials/Low Library)		
Access (Toilets for common room)		
Access (Toiletries, Appropriate Combs/Brushes)		
Access (Exercise, Religious Practice)		
Access (Legal Counsel)		
Access (Visitation, correspondence)		
Solitary Confinement		
Privacy/Dignity (showers, bathrooms)		
Special needs populations (pregnant, non-ambulatory, hearing impaired, mentally ill, medical conditions, developmental disability)	U	K6g and 288 inmates reported problems about access to special diets due to the fact that trustees and deputies who bring them their food are aware of their status so they do not bring the correct diet.
Module Information Postings (re: time calculations, complaint procedures, messages to SBC)		
Complaint Procedures (e.g., Deputy, medical complaints – confidential procedures to SBC, OIG, COC)		See below.
Fees Assessed/Money on Books		
2. Nutrition Quality/concerns	U	Non-dairy milks re-packaged and served in plastic containers that do not hold their seal for delivery. This is not sanitary as the seals break prior to delivery. This not only causes waste, but results in inmates not being delivered enough food to meet their dietary needs. This was observed in special meals delivered by deputies. Also several complaints that the meals (including dinner) are often cold by the time they reach the unit.
Access to special diets	U	See concern above re special needs. Also see below for detail.
3. Trustees		
Quarant		

Training & Selection		
Workload and Hours		
Calculation/Time Served		
4. Medical Services (Access, wait times, responsiveness, TB and other medical screening, dental, vision, infectious disease protocol)		
5. Mental Health Services (Access, wait Times, treatment options, assessment procedures)		Male in custody (#5664569) has been unable to get mental health consultation Several men raised concern that those designated with mental health issues are placed with general population (in 9100, 9300, & 9500) putting that at physical risk and risk of bullying. Requesting clarification from Watch Commander.
6. Telephones Access/Functionality		3 out of 6 phones are non-functioning in 9300
7. EBI Services Availability/Type/Access Volunteer Services (Type, Access, Concerns)		
8. Clean Clothing and Bedding (Including laundry practices)		
9. Facilities/Maintenance		
Back Log Unfilled Order(s)		Ned to determinc. At least 2 TVs not working in 4500
Kitchen/ Laundry		
Chemical exposure (kitchen, laundry, trustee duties)		
10. Deputy Staffing		
Quality of Interactions w/Detainees		
Use of Force (Last 30 days)		
Assault on Staff (Last 30 days)		
Staff Training (MH, trauma informed etc.)		
11. Detainee Complaints/Concerns		
12. Deputy Complaints/Concerns		Deputies on 9000 floor report frustration with lack of signage indicating whether a module is on quarantine order, which they said causes confusion when they do not know if an incarcerated person who needs to be moved is currently housed in a facility under a quarantine order.
13. Prior Corrective Action Resolution		
14. Detainee Documentation (e.g., Intake/ release, procedures: classification, logs, detainee management files, Exit Interview – policies/procedure grievances, generated funds, classifications)		UDAL entries do not include identifying information for person responsible for documenting the entry.
15. Discipline Proceedings		
16. Emergency Preparedness/Systems (e.g., fire extinguishers, airpack tags, emergency evacuation routes, control centers, emergency lighting fixtures, safety drills, First Aid and Suicide kits)		
17. Grounds (conditions, unlawful postings on outdoor grounds (e.g., if over been convicted cannot visit a detainee, etc.)		
18. Inspection: Special Focus OIG: ___ COC: ___ Community: ___		
19. COVID-19: _COC Request_____	U	Mask wearing by staff was inconsistent and unsatisfactory. Multiple staff members did not wear masks at all. Several simply wore them below their noses. Some who do not wear masks around visitors do not put on masks unless they are asked to do so. As of Jan. 31, 2022, MCJ was still utilizing a 14-day quarantine, even though DPH changed the quarantine guidelines and reduced the period of mandatory quarantine for close contacts to 10 days.
20. PREA Issues: _____		
21. Other: _____		

INSPECTION DETAILS – ANCHORED TO SUMMARY SECTIONS 1 THROUGH 17

Inspection Detail for # 1

Multiple inmates in 4500D are attempting to protect their health by preventing vents from blowing dust into their cells. They use materials such as towels or to protect themselves from the horrible air quality. A vent blowing air towards the cells on 4500D causes a thick layer of dust to cover metal grate across from the cell. One inmate states that the vent blows dirty air directly into his cell and that he once woke up with dust caking his nostrils. We are also told this inmate has not been to the roof to breathe fresh air for at least six months.

Inspection Detail for # 1

Grievance forms are not available in the boxes on the row in 4500. Also, when inmates have complicated concerns, they are told they can only include one "grievance" per form. They reported not only can they not get forms, but sometimes the complaints are more nuanced and rather than address the identified problem, deputies will just instruct them to use two forms without any resolution to the issue. This significantly delays the process.

Inspection Detail for # 2

A man in 4500 on hunger strike says he has two valid dietary restrictions – one is medical and the other is religious. In addition, he said he is prediabetic and has started taking medication to manage his high blood pressure, which he never had to do before, and which he said is due to the malnutrition. The Watch office theory is that having two grievances for two separate dietary needs (medical and religious) is too complex for the system to handle, and the delay in getting him a nutritionist to validate the medical request is causing his frustration and that has resulted in him beginning a hunger strike on Jan 28. But he has a trail of grievances dating back 6-8 months which have evolved somewhat and that seems to be hurting his ability to be heard. For example, his grievances started out focused on tampering with his food prior to delivery (inadequate portions and apparently being delivered soap instead of food). His complaints about food in 4500 align with what we heard from numerous people on that row. One commissioner watched a staff member hand-deliver a meal where the milk container was broken and soaking the food inside the plastic bag. When we reviewed the UDAL system, it said the meals were delivered without any complaints. This complaint was relayed to the watch commander.

Inspection Detail for **OIG** Request Related to: _____

Inspection Detail for **COC** Request Related to: _____

Inspection Detail for **Community** Request Related to: _____

Inspection Detail: EBI

Categories to be defined

Inspection Detail: Medical

Categories to be defined

Inspection Detail: Building and Maintenance

CONDITION OF GROUNDS and EXTERIOR OF BUILDING(S) (lawns, recreation area, blacktop, asphalt, other, general condition, paint, roof, drains/gutters, other)

INTERIOR OF BUILDING(S)

Walls, paint, floors, drains, plumbing fixtures working, air vents, windows:

Are cleaning fluids and chemicals labeled and safely stored?

Weapons locker present:

Recreation/sports equipment:

Are the hallways clear, are doors propped open or closed?

Holding areas (cells/rooms) – [if present], is there access to drinking water and toilet?

Condition of individual cells/rooms, or dormitories:

Beds – Type of bed and is it off the floor?

Adequate lighting:

Temperature:



PREVIOUS INSPECTION _____ Location _____
Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections

Courts _____ Jails ^x _____ Sheriff Stations _____

COMMISSIONER(S): Sherman, Veral TIME 12:30 DATE 2/27/2022
 p

FACILITY NAME:	MCJ
ADDRESS:	441 Bauchet St 90012 / LASD SUPERVISOR CONTACTED: Lt
Census:	(Capacity: _____) (Current Census: (_____)
Location(s) Inspected:	5700 dorm – did not go into the dorm; viewed from the outside
Issues Reported to:	<input type="checkbox"/> BOS <input type="checkbox"/> Officer in Charge <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LASD <input type="checkbox"/> ISD <input type="checkbox"/> OIG <input type="checkbox"/> COC

RATING: S = Satisfactory U = Unsatisfactory CA = Corrective Action Needed N/A = Not Applicable

ITEMS	RATING	COMMENTS
1. Conditions of Confinement		
Cells/Toilets/Sinks		
Showers (water temperature, rust, mold etc.)		
Crowding		
Cleanliness/Graffiti		
Safety, Conflict, Tension		
Common Areas		
Air Quality/Temperature		
Deputy/Detainee Relations (incl. specific incidents or allegations of misconduct)		
Strip Search Issues		
Access (Drinking Water)		
Access (Mail/Reading Materials/Law Library)		
Access (Toilets (for common room)		
Access (Toiletries, Appropriate Combs/Brushes)		
Access (Exercise, Religious Practice)		
Access (Legal Counsel)		
Access (Visitation, correspondence)		
Solitary Confinement		
Privacy/Dignity (showers, bathrooms)		
Special needs populations (pregnant, non-ambulatory, hearing impaired, mentally ill, medical conditions, developmental disability)		
Module Information Postings (re: time calculations, complaint procedures, messages to SBC)		
Complaint Procedures (e.g., Deputy, medical complaints – confidential procedures to SBC, OIG, COC)		
Fees Assessed/Money on Books		
Other: _____		
2. Nutrition Quality/concerns		

Access to special diets		
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3. Trustees		
Quarters		
Training & Selection		
Workload and Hours		
Calculation/Time Served		
4. Medical Services (Access, wait times, responsiveness, TB and other medical screening, dental, vision; infectious disease protocol)		
5. Mental Health Services (Access, wait Times, treatment options, assessment procedures)		People in this dorm are ID'd as having mental health issues (and apparently are prescribed psychiatric medications) but get limited access to supportive mental health services. JMET visits them to inquire about suicidality, but people are unable to meet with counselors in a confidential setting. Very limited recreation or other recovery activities for this population of individuals with documented mental illness.
6. Telephones Access/Functionality		
7. EBI Services Availability/Type/Access Volunteer Services (Type, Access, Concerns)		
8. Clean Clothing and Bedding (Including laundry practices)		
9. Facilities/Maintenance		
Back Log Unfilled Order(s)		
Kitchen/ Laundry		
Chemical exposure (kitchen, laundry, trustee duties)		
10. Deputy Staffing		
Quality of Interactions w/Detainees		
Use of Force (Last 30 days)		Unable to assess
Assault on Staff (Last 30 days)		
Staff Training (MII, trauma informed etc.)		
11. Detainee Complaints/Concerns		
12. Deputy Complaints/Concerns		
13. Prior Corrective Action Resolution		
14. Detainee Documentation (e.g., intake/release, procedures: classification, logs, detainee management files, Exit interview – policies/procedure grievances, generated funds, classifications)		
15. Discipline Proceedings		
16. Emergency Preparedness/Systems (e.g., fire extinguishers, airpack tags, emergency evacuation routes, control centers, emergency lighting fixtures, safety drills, First Aid and Suicide kits)		
17. Grounds (conditions, unlawful postings on exterior grounds (e.g., if ever been convicted cannot visit a detainee, etc.)		
18. Inspection: Special Focus OIG: _____ COC: _____ Community: _____		
19. COVID-19: _COC Request_____		

INSPECTION DETAILS – ANCHORED TO SUMMARY SECTIONS 1 THROUGH 17

Inspection Detail for Community Request Related to: _____
Inspection Detail for OIG Request Related to: _____
Inspection Detail for COC Request Related to: _____

Inspection Detail: EBI

Categories to be defined

Inspection Detail: Medical

Categories to be defined

Inspection Detail: Building and Maintenance

CONDITION OF GROUNDS and EXTERIOR OF BUILDING(S) (lawns, recreation area, blacktop, asphalt, other, general condition, paint, roof, drains/gutters, other)

INTERIOR OF BUILDING(S)

Walls, paint, floors, drains, plumbing fixtures working, air vents, windows:

Are cleaning fluids and chemicals labeled and safely stored?

Weapons locker present:

Recreation/sports equipment:

Are the hallways clear, are doors propped open or closed?

Holding areas (cells/rooms) – [if present], is there access to drinking water and toilet?

Condition of individual cells/rooms, or dormitories:

Beds – Type of bed and is it off the floor?

Adequate lighting:

Temperature:



PREVIOUS INSPECTION _____ Location _____
Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections

Courts _____ Jails ^x _____ Sheriff Stations _____

COMMISSIONER(S): SHERMAN,
 Alexander (Accompanied
 by OIG Catherine Beltz)

TIME: 6:30 AM – 8:30 AM

3/9/2022

FACILITY NAME:	MCJ – 5700, 5550
ADDRESS:	/ LASD SUPERVISOR CONTACTED: Lt (WATCH COMMANDER ON DUTY)
Census:	(Capacity: _____) (Current Census: (_____))
Location(s) Inspected:	5700, 5500
Issues Reported to:	<input type="checkbox"/> BOS <input type="checkbox"/> Officer in Charge <input type="checkbox"/> LASD <input type="checkbox"/> ISD <input type="checkbox"/> x OIG <input type="checkbox"/> COC

RATING: S = Satisfactory U = Unsatisfactory CA = Corrective Action Needed N/A = Not Applicable

ITEMS	RATING	COMMENTS
1. Conditions of Confinement		
Cells/Toilets/Sinks	U	See Below
Showers (water temperature, rust, mold etc.)		
Crowding	U	See Below
Cleanliness/Graffiti	U	See Below
Safety, Conflict, Tension	U	See Below
Common Areas		
Air Quality/Temperature	U	See Below
Deputy/Detainee Relations (incl. specific incidents or allegations of misconduct)	U	See Below
Strip Search Issues		
Access (Drinking Water)		
Access (Mail/Reading Materials/Law Library)		
Access (Toilets (for common room))	U	See Below
Access (Toiletries, Appropriate Combs/Brushes)	U	See Below
Access (Exercise, Religious Practice)	U	See Below
Access (Legal Counsel)		
Access (Visitation, correspondence)		
Solitary Confinement		
Privacy/Dignity (showers, bathrooms)	U	See Below
Special needs populations (pregnant, non-ambulatory, hearing impaired, mentally ill, medical conditions, developmental disability)	U	Inmate concerns about suicidality are being ignored.
Module Information Postings (re: time calculations, complaint procedures, messages to SBC)	U	See Below

Complaint Procedures (e.g., Deputy, medical complaints -- confidential procedures to SBC, OIG, COC)	U	See Below
Fees Assessed/Money on Books		
Other: _____		
2. Nutrition Quality/concerns	U	See Below
Access to special diets		

3. Trustees		
Quarters		
Training & Selection		
Workload and Hours		
Calculation/Time Served		
4. Medical Services (Access, wait times, responsiveness, TB and other medical screening, dental, vision; infectious disease protocol)	U	See below
5. Mental Health Services (Access, wait Times, treatment options, assessment procedures)	U	Inmates identifies as having mental illness in 5550 are not seeing psychiatrist frequently enough. Complaints about referrals to see psychiatrist are not being met.
6. Telephones Access/Functionality		
7. EBI Services Availability/Type/Access Volunteer Services (Type, Access, Concerns)	U	5700 has no programming.
8. Clean Clothing and Bedding (Including laundry practices)		
9. Facilities/Maintenance		
Back Log Unfilled Order(s)		
Kitchen/ Laundry		
Chemical exposure (kitchen, laundry, trustee duties)		
10. Deputy Staffing		
Quality of Interactions w/Detainees	U	Inmates complain of discourtesy from staff.
Use of Force (Last 30 days)		
Assault on Staff (Last 30 days)		
Staff Training (MH, trauma informed etc.)		
11. Detainee Complaints/Concerns		
12. Deputy Complaints/Concerns		
13. Prior Corrective Action Resolution		
14. Detainee Documentation (e.g., intake/ release, procedures: classification, logs, detainee management files, Exit Interview – policies/procedure grievances, generated funds, classifications)		
15. Discipline Proceedings		
16. Emergency Preparedness/Systems (e.g., fire extinguishers, airpack tags, emergency evacuation routes, control centers, emergency lighting fixtures, safety drills, First Aid and Suicide kits)		
17. Grounds (conditions, unlawful postings on exterior grounds (e.g., if ever been convicted cannot visit a detainee, etc.)		
18. Inspection: Special Focus OIG: <i>Gaps in medical care</i> _____ COC: _____ Community: _____	U	See below
19. COVID-19: _____	U	Staff was unclear on whether 5700 was on a quarantine.
20. PREA Issues: _____		
21. Other: _____		

INSPECTION DETAILS – ANCHORED TO SUMMARY SECTIONS 1 THROUGH 17

INSPECTION DETAIL FOR #1

5700

5700 is an 88-100 person cell with several rows of double bunks placed very close together. It currently houses people with what has been described to me by staff as an “eclectic” mix of mental health conditions. A working TV blares above the door, and a group of about 15 men stand by to watch it. At the time of my visit, I was informed that 5700 was under a quarantine order due to a potential COVID positive case that was undetermined at the time.

Deputies permit me to enter 5700. When I introduce myself to individuals who are being incarcerated there, they seem eager to report a litany of problems most urgently, mostly are of the Title 15 variety – they say they have no access to the yard, they are not receiving weekly visits by a psychiatrist to adjust their medications, half of the toilets are broken, they are not being provided cleaning supplies and the floors are filthy. Their food portions are not full. Out of the many modules I have visited, the people who wish to speak with me in 5700 present as particularly agitated and they are quite aware that they are being housed in suboptimal conditions that I would describe in my notes as squalor. People indicate their feelings of neglect, harassment, intimidation by staff, who they say are discourteous to them. They expect retaliation for speaking with me.

Complaints of Suicidality Being Ignored

Most significantly, I received numerous complaints that staff are indifferent (or worse) to their complaints of being suicidal. An inmate who tells me he has attempted suicide in the past feels afraid to report feelings of suicidal ideation when they occur. An inmate alleges deputies make remarks advising individuals who complain of suicidal ideation to “do it” on another shift. I reported the complaints about suicidal ideation to the sergeant on duty at the time and briefly discussed conditions. He presented explanations for many of my concerns and reflected some sympathy, but he also did not ask me to identify the individual who had made the complaints about suicide, and that left me with the impression that he was not alarmed. The sergeant acknowledged that conditions in 5700 were challenging.

Quarantine

At the time of visiting, 5700 was on a quarantine order due to an inmate reporting symptoms several days before. But staff did not know this was the case and said they were unaware because the quarantine status was “changing all the time.” They did not know whether the inmate had been tested and whether his status was determined. Staff indicated their belief that HIPAA prohibited their ability to access health information when needed for health and safety purposes. People incarcerated in 5700 were unaware of the quarantine status and sought information about it from me. Meanwhile, inmates uninformed of the heightened risk of spread of COVID did not wear masks.

Programming

I am told no educational programming is available to the population in 5700 though they are eligible for it.

Lack of Privacy for Clinical Consultations

There is no privacy for confidential communication between inmates and clinical staff. A social worker was meeting with similarly situated inmates (from a neighboring module) standing in the hallway, as numerous deputies stood nearby and observed what should have been confidential conversations. Lack of confidentiality or privacy may deter inmates from candidly reporting symptoms or making other complaints here, and without special accommodations appears to make the space ill-suited to meeting the medical or therapeutic needs of the population.

Bathrooms

There is a bathroom in the back of the pod with approximately 10 toilets, half of which were not functioning.

Risk Management

Staff indicated to me there are frequent fights in 5700. A source who requested anonymity told me that DMH staff wish to relocate the population out of 5700 and nearby modules because conditions are believed to be deleterious to health, and suggested that the manner in which the population is housed is making it unsafe.

Air Quality

Inmates report the air was still (no circulation) and hot until the module happened to go on quarantine.

Commissary / Store

Inmates report not receiving their items from commissary, particularly they are unable to obtain the white shoes they order.

5550

5550 is a "H.O.P.E." module — which stands for High Observation Positive Environment. This cell has an open door to the hallway and appears to be under-crowded and highly decompressed. Staff presents empathy. Housed here are people with severe mental health conditions. Conversations with inmates reveal extremely long waits to see a psychiatrist to discuss concerns about medication, dosing, and a sense of indifference to their well-being.

Inspection Detail: Building and Maintenance

CONDITION OF GROUNDS and EXTERIOR OF BUILDING(S) (lawns, recreation area, blacktop, asphalt, other, general condition, paint, roof, drains/gutters, other)

INTERIOR OF BUILDING(S)

Walls, paint, floors, drains, plumbing fixtures working, air vents, windows:

Are cleaning fluids and chemicals labeled and safely stored?

Weapons locker present:

Recreation/sports equipment:

Are the hallways clear, are doors propped open or closed?

Holding areas (cells/rooms) – [if present], is there access to drinking water and toilet?

Condition of individual cells/rooms, or dormitories:

Beds – Type of bed and is it off the floor?

Adequate lighting:

Temperature:



PREVIOUS INSPECTION: _____ Location: _____
Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections

Courts _____ Jails ^{MCJ} _____ Sheriff Stations _____

COMMISSIONER(S): Sherman, Regalado TIME 01:00 DATE 12/13/22

FACILITY NAME:	Men's Central Jail		
ADDRESS:	441 Bauchet St	/ LASD SUPERVISOR CONTACTED:	
Census:	Capacity: ()	Current Census: ()	
Location(s) Inspected:	6000, 3400, 5000, Roof		
Issues Reported to:	<input type="radio"/> BOS <input type="radio"/> Officer in Charge <input type="radio"/> LASD <input type="radio"/> ISD <input checked="" type="radio"/> OIG <input type="radio"/> COC		

RATING: S = Satisfactory U = Unsatisfactory CA = Corrective Action Needed N/A = Not Applicable

ITEMS	RATING	COMMENTS
1. Conditions of Confinement		
Cells/Toilets/Sinks		
Showers (water temperature, rust, mold etc.)		6503-3: No water pressure in shower
Crowding		
Cleanliness/Graffiti		6503-3: Water leaking
Safety, Conflict, Tension		
Common Areas		
Air Quality/Temperature		
Deputy/Detainee Relations (incl. specific incidents or allegations of misconduct)		
Strip Search Issues		
Access (Drinking Water)		
Access (Mail/Reading Materials/Law Library)		
Access (Toilets (for common room)		
Access (Toiletries, Appropriate Combs/Brushes)		
Access (Exercise, Religious Practice)		
Access (Legal Counsel)		
Access (Visitation, correspondence)		
Solitary Confinement		
Privacy/Dignity (showers, bathrooms)		
Special needs populations (pregnant, non-ambulatory, hearing impaired, mentally ill, medical conditions, developmental disability)		
Module Information Postings (re: time calculations, complaint procedures, messages to SBC)		
Complaint Procedures (e.g., Deputy, medical complaints – confidential procedures to SBC, OIG, COC)		
Fees Assessed/Money on Books		
Other: _____		
2. Nutrition Quality/concerns		
Access to special diets		
3. Trustees		

Quarters		
Training & Selection		
Workload and Hours		
Calculation/Time Served		
4. Medical Services (Access, wait times, responsiveness, TB and other medical screening, dental, vision; infectious disease protocol)		See notes
5. Mental Health Services (Access, wait Times, treatment options, assessment procedures)		See notes
6. Telephones Access/Functionality		
7. EBI Services Availability/Type/Access Volunteer Services (Type, Access, Concerns)		
8. Clean Clothing and Bedding (Including laundry practices)		
9. Facilities/Maintenance		
Back Log Unfilled Order(s)		
Kitchen/ Laundry		
Chemical exposure (kitchen, laundry, trustee dut)		
10. Deputy Staffing		
Quality of Interactions w/Detainees		
Use of Force (Last 30 days)		See notes
Assault on Staff (Last 30 days)		
Staff Training (MH, trauma informed etc.)		
11. Detainee Complaints/Concerns		
12. Deputy Complaints/Concerns		
13. Prior Corrective Action Resolution		
14. Detainee Documentation (e.g., Intake/ release, procedures: classification, logs, detainee management files, Exit interview – policies/procedure grievances, generated funds, classifications)		
15. Discipline Proceedings		
16. Emergency Preparedness/Systems (e.g., fire extinguishers, air pack tags, emergency evacuation routes, control centers, emergency lighting fixtures, safety drills, First Aid and Suicide kits)		
17. Grounds (conditions, unlawful postings on exterior grounds (e.g., if ever been convicted cannot visit a detainee, etc.)		
18. Inspection: Special Focus OIG: _____ COC: _____ Community: _____		
19. COVID-19: _COC Request_____		
20. PREA Issues: _____		
21. Other: _____		

3400-B: Medically unsupervised detoxification

Upon inspection of 3400-B, we came upon a man who appeared to be in agony as he was experiencing what appeared to be symptoms of a medically unsupervised withdrawal from opioids. When I walked up to him, he immediately begged me for help. I was told he had gone man down three times in the few days he was there, and he was ultimately told to detox in his own cell on the row. I was told he had originally been housed with cell mates on the row, but when his symptoms of withdrawal caused him to vomit on his cell mates, he was given his own cell nearby. An additional complication is the fact that the row is on a quarantine order, although there was no signage on the row alerting me to that prior to my entry, and nobody was wearing masks, including the deputy. I referred this matter to Medical for immediate attention.

5000: Restraint of incarcerated person with serious mental illness - incident report

This report was provided to OIG.

On December 13, 2022, Commissioner Regalado and Commissioner Sherman were in the process of conducting an inspection of various areas of MCJ, including 6000, 3000, and 5000. At around 3pm, while we stood in the watch observation deck near 5600 (or one of those 4 large dorms on 5000 that share a single deck), we heard and then later observed the removal of a person housed in an MOH dorm. We were told that he was being transferred to TTCF HOH for what was said to be a treatment-related purpose.

We observed the Sgt involved in his removal with several other deputies who walked him to the bench in the hall near the doorway to the escalators and kept him there under the watch of a number of 5-10 deputies. At that time, the person appeared to be handcuffed to the bench and behaving in a relatively calm and patient manner, even as he appeared to have a dour affect, and the deputies appeared to be relaxed. Deputies were chatting with us and offering to help us go inside the dorms to conduct an internal inspection of the dorm facilities. The situation seemed to be under control and we walked down the hall with Sgt into an office to discuss matters related to the administration of the floor.

While the incarcerated person was out of our view, I heard a verbal outburst from down the hall. I walked towards the situation to observe the incarcerated man continue to be handcuffed to the bench as he had an outburst. I was not able to make sense of his words which were generally virtiolic and did not appear to be directed at any one person. As the outburst continued, I saw deputies standing around begin to gear up with tasers, blue/black gas canisters, and eventually bring out a black canvas or kevlar wheelbarrow type of gurney. Then, a deputy told us we must leave immediately. Since Commissioner Regalado had just been speaking with the Sgt, I waited for an instruction from him. The Sgt asked us to wait where we were in the escalator vestibule.

Once in the vestibule, the floor went on lockdown as the door was locked in front of us. We attempted to view the situation through the small window of the locked door but a deputy stood there to obstruct our view. While we stood behind the locked door of the vestibule, the deputies did not appear to take action while the distressed man continued to express verbal outburst. Even though he was out of view, my belief is at that point he remained handcuffed to the bench. I did

not see any deputies use force or intentionally agitate the inmate, but they did encircle him while holding spray and tasers.

The deputies then huddled into the interior of the office adjacent to the escalator vestibule. After some time, a deputy emerged from the office and told us to leave the floor entirely. We were told the inmate had spit on a deputy, but we did not see this happen nor did we see or hear any action taken in response to the apparent spitting. I did not see the Sgt again and did not receive a follow up instruction from him. Mr. Regalado and I remained restricted from the area, behind a locked door, yet it seemed clear, as long as we remained on the floor, the deputies were not going to take any action. After some more time, Mr. Regalado and I decided to leave. We then met with the watch commander and reported the fact of the incident occurring on the floor to them. The watch commander did not ask for our observations as to what we saw.

As Commission Regalado and I left the building, we discussed our observations. The question on both of our minds was why we as commissioners conducting an inspection were not allowed to remain even behind the locked door, but also why they felt they could not do whatever it is they were going to do to effect the transfer with us being present. It is our impression we saw a situation that started as a transfer for treatment purposes, yet there were no medical or mental health personnel present to lead or monitor the transfer. This then escalated and became a potential UOF.

Later, I learned a Use of Force did occur, the person was recommended for disciplinary housing, but was instead diverted to HOH housing at TTCF.



PREVIOUS INSPECTION _____ Location _____
Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections

Courts _____ Jails x Sheriff Stations _____

COMMISSIONER(S):
 Veral

TIME

DATE
 2/14/2023

FACILITY NAME:	Men's Central Jail
ADDRESS:	441 Bauchet St
Census:	(Capacity: _____) (Current Census: (_____))
Location(s) Inspected:	6050, 5000 Floor (5500 dorm)
Issues Reported to:	<input type="checkbox"/> BOS <input type="checkbox"/> Officer in Charge <input type="checkbox"/> LASD <input type="checkbox"/> ISD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OIG <input type="checkbox"/> COC

RATING: S = Satisfactory U = Unsatisfactory CA = Corrective Action Needed N/A = Not Applicable

ITEMS	RATING	COMMENTS
1. Conditions of Confinement		
Cells/Toilets/Sinks		
Showers (water temperature, rust, mold etc.)		
Crowding	U	The 5000 dorm that is designated mental health housing continues to be very crowded. Inmates cannot be supervised from inside the deputy booth.
Cleanliness/Graffiti	U	There was trash all along the floor on the escalators on the new side (4000/5000 side). The escalator was also broken.
Safety, Conflict, Tension		
Common Areas	U	There is a large brown stain running along the wall outside of 6050. It appears to be coming through the ceiling.
Air Quality/Temperature		
Deputy/Detainee Relations (incl. specific incidents or allegations of misconduct)		
Strip Search Issues		
Access (Drinking Water)		
Access (Mail/Reading Materials/Law Library)		
Access (Toilets (for common room)		
Access (Toiletries, Appropriate Combs/Brushes)		
Access (Exercise, Religious Practice)		
Access (Legal Counsel)		
Access (Visitation, correspondence)		
Solitary Confinement		
Privacy/Dignity (showers, bathrooms)	U	Keeping people in the hallway chained to gurneys is very problematic
Special needs populations (pregnant, non-ambulatory, hearing impaired, mentally ill, medical conditions, developmental disability)	U	6050 inmates reported not receiving diets that they could eat. They had been told they have to wait until they get to "permanent" housing before they can receive a special diet.
Module Information Postings (re: time calculations, complaint procedures, messages to SBC)		
Complaint Procedures (e.g., Deputy, medical complaints – confidential procedures to SBC, OIG, COC)		

Fees Assessed/Money on Books		
Other: _____		
2. Nutrition Quality/concerns		
Access to special diets		

3

3. Trustees		
Quarters		
Training & Selection		
Workload and Hours		
Calculation/Time Served		
4. Medical Services (Access, wait times, responsiveness, TB and other medical screening, dental, vision; Infectious disease protocol)		
5. Mental Health Services (Access, wait Times, treatment options, assessment procedures)	U	In 6050 there were three men without clothes (they were wearing suicide gowns) chained to gurneys in the hallway, apparently waiting to see the psychiatrist or receive mental health care. It appeared as though LASD is using this area as additional IRC overflow. OIG took the information. Every individual I spoke with in 6050 said they were waiting to see the doctor.
6. Telephones Access/Functionality		
7. EBI Services Availability/Type/Access Volunteer Services (Type, Access, Concerns)	U	
8. Clean Clothing and Bedding (Including laundry practices)	U	There were piles of dirty laundry in the front cells of 6050.
9. Facilities/Maintenance		
Back Log Unfilled Order(s)		
Kitchen/ Laundry		
Chemical exposure (Kitchen, laundry, trustee duties)		
10. Deputy Staffing		
Quality of Interactions w/Detainees		
Use of Force (Last 30 days)		
Assault on Staff (Last 30 days)		
Staff Training (MH, trauma informed etc.)		
11. Detainee Complaints/Concerns		
12. Deputy Complaints/Concerns		
13. Prior Corrective Action Resolution		
14. Detainee Documentation (e.g., Intake/ release, procedures: classification, logs, detainee management files, Exit interview – policies/procedure grievances, generated funds, classifications)		
15. Discipline Proceedings		
16. Emergency Preparedness/Systems (e.g., fire extinguishers, airpack tags, emergency evacuation routes, control centers, emergency lighting fixtures, safety drills, First Aid and Suicide kits)		
17. Grounds (conditions, unlawful postings on exterior grounds (e.g., If ever been convicted cannot visit a detainee, etc.)		

4

18. Inspection: Special Focus OIG: _____ COC: _____ Community: _____		
19. COVID-19: _COC Request_		
20. PREA Issues: _____		
21. Other: _____		



PREVIOUS INSPECTION _____ Location _____
Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections

Courts _____ Jails x Sheriff Stations _____

COMMISSIONER(S):
 Veral

TIME

DATE
 2/14/2023

FACILITY NAME:	Men's Central Jail
ADDRESS:	441 Bauchet St
Census:	(Capacity: _____) (Current Census: _____)
Location(s) Inspected:	6050, 5000 Floor (5500 dorm)
Issues Reported to:	<input type="checkbox"/> BOS <input type="checkbox"/> Officer in Charge <input type="checkbox"/> LASD <input type="checkbox"/> ISD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OIG <input type="checkbox"/> COC

RATING: S = Satisfactory U = Unsatisfactory CA = Corrective Action Needed N/A = Not Applicable

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Safety, Conflict, Tension		
Common Areas	U	There is a large brown stain running along the wall outside of 6050. It appears to be coming through the ceiling.
Air Quality/Temperature		
Deputy/Detainee Relations (incl. specific incidents or allegations of misconduct)		
Strip Search Issues		
Access (Drinking Water)		
Access (Mail/Reading Materials/Law Library)		
Access (Toilets (for common room)		
Access (Toiletries, Appropriate Combs/Brushes)		
Access (Exercise, Religious Practice)		
Access (Legal Counsel)		
Access (Visitation, correspondence)		
Solitary Confinement		
Privacy/Dignity (showers, bathrooms)	U	Keeping people in the hallway chained to gurneys is very problematic
Special needs populations (pregnant, non-ambulatory, hearing impaired, mentally ill, medical conditions, developmental disability)	U	6050 inmates reported not receiving diets that they could eat. They had been told they have to wait until they get to "permanent" housing before they can receive a special diet.
Module Information Postings (re: time calculations, complaint procedures, messages to SBC)		
Complaint Procedures (e.g., Deputy, medical complaints – confidential procedures to SBC, OIG, COC)		

Fees Assessed/Money on Books		
Other: _____		
2. Nutrition Quality/concerns		
Access to special diets		

3

3. Trustees		
Quarters		
Training & Selection		
Workload and Hours		
Calculation/Time Served		
4. Medical Services (Access, wait times, responsiveness, TB and other medical screening, dental, vision; infectious disease protocol)		
5. Mental Health Services (Access, wait Times, treatment options, assessment procedures)	U	<p>In 6050 there were three men without clothes (they were wearing suicide gowns) chained to gurneys in the hallway, apparently waiting to see the psychiatrist or receive mental health care. It appeared as though LASD is using this area as additional IRC overflow. OIG took the information.</p> <p>Every individual I spoke with in 6050 said they were waiting to see the doctor.</p>
6. Telephones Access/Functionality		
7. EBI Services Availability/Type/Access Volunteer Services (Type, Access, Concerns)	U	
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9. Facilities/Maintenance		
Back Log Unfilled Order(s)		
Kitchen/ Laundry		
Chemical exposure (kitchen, laundry, trustee duties)		
10. Deputy Staffing		
Quality of Interactions w/Detainees		
Use of Force (Last 30 days)		
Assault on Staff (Last 30 days)		
Staff Training (MH, trauma informed etc.)		
11. Detainee Complaints/Concerns		
12. Deputy Complaints/Concerns		
13. Prior Corrective Action Resolution		
14. Detainee Documentation (e.g., intake/ release, procedures: classification, logs, detainee management files, Exit interview – policies/procedure grievances, generated funds, classifications)		
15. Discipline Proceedings		
16. Emergency Preparedness/Systems (e.g., fire extinguishers, airpack tags, emergency evacuation routes, control centers, emergency lighting fixtures, safety drills, First Aid and Suicide kits)		
17. Grounds (conditions, unlawful postings on exterior grounds (e.g., if ever been convicted cannot visit a detainee, etc.)		

18. Inspection: Special Focus OIG: _____ COC: _____ Community: _____		
19. COVID-19: _COC Request_		
20. PREA Issues: _____		
21. Other: _____		

Inspection Information**1. Location ***

MCJ and TTCF

2. Date of Previous Inspection *

11/14/2023

**3. Location**

	Courts	Jails	Sheriff Station
Location			

4. Commissioner(s) - (Select all that Apply) *

Ingrid Archie

Mark - Anthony Clayton Johnson

Bob Frutos

Dr. Chery N. Grills

Eric Miller

Alexander Sherman

Joahanna Terrones

Mary Veral

Other

5. Date of this Inspection *

7/14/2023



6. Time *

9:00am

Facility Information

7. Facility Name *

MCJ and TTCF

8. Address *

Bauchet Street

9. Name and Title of LASD Supervisor Contacted *

Gallego, Slutsky

10. Census: Capacity *

MCJ Population 3723

11. Current Census *

MCJ Population 3723

12. Location(s) Inspected: *

5000 Floor, Kitchen

13. Issues reported to (Select all that Apply): *

BOS

Officer in Charge

LASD

ISD

OIG

COC

Other

14. Name of the person(s) issues were reported to: *

Gallego

15. Contact Information of the person(s) contacted: *

N/A

Conditions of Confinement

16. Condition of Confinement: Cells/Toilets/Sinks

Unsatisfactory



17. Condition of Confinement COMMENTS RE: Cells/Toilets/Sinks

Toilets out of order in dorms

18. Condition of Confinement: Showers (water temperature, rust, mold etc.)

Unsatisfactory



19. Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE: Showers (water temperature, rust, mold etc.)

Low water pressure

20. Condition of Confinement: Crowding

Unsatisfactory



21. **Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE:** Crowding

Mental health dorms continue to operate at maximum capacity of 87 people per dorm, in triple bunk units

22. **Condition of Confinement:** Cleanliness/Graffiti

Not Applicable



23. **Condition of Confinement:** Safety, Conflict, Tension

Unsatisfactory



24. **Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE:** Safety, Conflict, Tension

Inmates in MH dorms reported a past incident involving persons with MH stirring fights, leading to aggressive response by LASD involving use of pepper spray, including an allegation by an inmate that LASD had fired a pepper spray gun at the back of his friends head. Incident was said to have occurred in May 2023 in 5800.

25. **Condition of Confinement:** Common Areas

Not Applicable



26. **Condition of Confinement:** Air Quality/Temperature

Unsatisfactory



27. **Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE:** Air Quality/Temperature

Air smelled like smoke from burning fires.

28. **Condition of Confinement:** Deputy/Detainee Relations (Including Specific Incidents or allegations of misconduct)

Not Applicable



29. **Condition of Confinement:** Strip Search Issues

Not Applicable



30. **Condition of Confinement:** Access (Drinking Water)

Not Applicable



31. **Condition of Confinement:** Access (Mail/Reading Materials/Law Library)

Not Applicable



32. **Condition of Confinement:** Access (Toilets for Common Room)

Not Applicable



33. Condition of Confinement: Access (Toiletries, Appropriate Combs/Brushes)

Not Applicable

**34. Condition of Confinement: Access (Exercise, Religious Practice)**

Not Applicable

**35. Condition of Confinement: Access (Legal Counsel)**

Not Applicable

**36. Condition of Confinement: Access (Visitation, Correspondence)**

Not Applicable

**37. Condition of Confinement: Solitary Confinement**

Not Applicable

**38. Condition of Confinement: Privacy/Dignity (showers, bathrooms)**

Not Applicable

**39. Condition of Confinement: Special needs populations (pregnant, non-ambulatory, hearing impaired, mentally ill, medical conditions, developmental disability)**

Unsatisfactory

**40. Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE: Special needs populations (pregnant, non-ambulatory, hearing impaired, mentally ill, medical conditions, developmental disability)**

MH population housed in overcrowded conditions (87 per dorm, triple bunks). Sheets and towels that had provided individuals with some sense of separation from overcrowded facilities have been removed.

41. Condition of Confinement: Module Information Postings (re: time calculations, complaint, developmental disability)

Not Applicable

**42. Condition of Confinement: Complaint Procedure (e.g., Deputy, Medical Complaints - Confidential Procedures to SBC, OIG, COC)**

Not Applicable

**43. Condition of Confinement: Fees Assessed/ Money on Books**

Corrective Action Needed

**44. Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE: Fees Assessed/ Money on Books**

Inmates said personal belongings (items purchased from commissary) had been taken from them / stolen after the module was cleaned following the pepper spray incident in May 2023

45. Condition of Confinement: Other

46. Condition of Confinement: Other

Select your answer



Nutrition

47. Nutrition: Quality/Concerns

Unsatisfactory



48. Nutrition COMMENT RE: Quality/Concerns

Refrigerator in basement was broken. Hundreds of pre-prepared meals were to be stored in the broken refrigerator for the duration of weekend.

49. Nutrition: Access to special diets

Not Applicable



Trustees

50. Trustees: Quarters

Not Applicable



51. Trustees: Training and Selection

Not Applicable



52. Trustees: Workload and Hours

Not Applicable



53. Trustees: Calculation/Time Served

Not Applicable



Medical Services

54. Medical Services

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wait Times	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Responsiveness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
TB and Other Medical Screening	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dental	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Infectious Disease Protocol	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

55. COMMENTS RE: Medical

Mental Health

56. Mental Health Services

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wait Times	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Treatment Options	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assessment Procedures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

57. COMMENTS RE: Mental Health

Access to MH services in 5800 is extremely limited.

At TTCF, individuals were being housed in solitary confinement HOH housing while LASD personnel including deputies watched a movie on LASD computers.

Telephones

58. Telephones

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Functionality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

59. COMMENTS RE: Telephones

Education Based Incarceration Programming (EBI)

60. Education Based Incarceration Programming (EBI)

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Availability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Type	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

61. COMMENTS RE: EBI Programming

62. EBI: Volunteer Services

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Type	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Concerns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

63. COMMENTS RE EBI: Volunteer Services

Clean Clothing and Bedding

64. Clean Clothing and Bedding (including laundry practices)

Not Applicable



Facilities/Maintenance

65. Facilities/Maintenance: Back Log Unfilled Order(s)

Not Applicable



66. Facilities/Maintenance COMMENTS RE: Back Log Unfilled Order(s)

67. Facilities/Maintenance: Kitchen/Laundry

Unsatisfactory



68. Facilities/Maintenance COMMENTS RE: Kitchen/Laundry

Refrigerator storing pre-made meals was broken at time of visit. This was reported to DPH who inspected the following week and reported back to Inspector AS that the refrigerator had been repaired.

69. Facilities/Maintenance: Chemical exposure (kitchen, laundry, trustee duties)

Unsatisfactory



70. Facilities/Maintenance COMMENTS RE: Chemical exposure (kitchen, laundry, trustee duties)

Inmates burning fires (it is unclear what they are burning) cause air to smell like smoke.

Deputy Staffing

71. Deputy Staffing: Quality of Interactions w/Detainees

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Use of Force (Last 30 days)				
Assault on Staff (Last 30 days)				
Staff Training (MH, trauma informed etc.)				

72. Deputy Staffing COMMENTS RE: Quality of Interactions w/Detainees

73. Detainee Complaints/Concerns COMMENTS:

Inmate alleged his friend had been shot in the head with a pepper spray gun in May 2023 in 5800.

74. Deputy Complaint/Concerns COMMENTS:

75. Prior Corrective Action Resolution:

LASD does not provide SBC with Corrective Action Plans.

76. Detainee Documentations (e.g., intake/release, procedures):

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Classification				
Logs				
Detainee management				
Exit interview - policies/procedure grievances				
Generated funds				

77. Detainee Documentation COMMENTS:**78. Discipline Proceedings:**

Not Applicable

79. Emergency Preparedness/Systems:

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Fire Extinguishers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Airpack Tags	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Emergency Evacuation Routes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Control Centers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Emergency Lighting Fixtures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Safety Drills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
First Aid and Suicide Kits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

80. Emergency Preparedness/Systems COMMENTS:

LASD personnel indicated the facility utilizes no smoke alarms

81. Grounds:

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Conditions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Unlawful postings on exterior grounds (e.g., if ever been convicted cannot visit a detainee, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

82. Grounds COMMENTS:**Inspection: Special Focus****83. Inspection: Special Focus**

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Available
COC	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
CHS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
DMH	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
DPH	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Food Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
OIG	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

84. Inspection: Special Focus Request (Select all that Apply):

COC

Community

☐ CHS☐ DMH

DPH

Facilities

☐ Food Services☐ OIG☐ N/A

Other

85. Inspection: Special Focus Request Comments:

86. **Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Issues:**

Not Applicable



87. **Other:**

INSPECTION DETAILS - ANCHORED TO SUMMARIZE #3 THROUGH #106

88. Inspection Detail for #:

89. Inspection Detail for #:

90. Inspection Detail for #:

91. Inspection Detail for **OIG** Request Related to:

92. Inspection Detail for **COC** Request Related to:

93. Inspection Detail for **Community Request** Related to:

94. Inspection Detail: **EBI**

95. Inspection Detail: **Medical**

96. Inspection Detail: Medical**97. Inspection Detail: Building and Maintenance (Select all that apply)**

- ☐ Lawns
- ☐ Recreation Area
- ☐ Blacktop
- ☐ Asphalt
- ☐ General Condition
- ☐ Paint
- ☐ Roof
- ☐ Drains/Gutters
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Other

98. Inspection Detail: Building and Maintenance**(INSPECTION DETAIL: INTERIOR OF BUILDINGS(5))**

99. Inspection Detail: Interior of Building(s) and Maintenance (Select all that apply)

☐ Walls

☐ Paint

☐ Floors

☐ Drains

☐ Plumbing fixtures working

☐ Air Vents

☐ Windows

☐ Not Applicable

☐ Other

100. Inspection Detail Interior of Building:

101. Are Cleaning fluids and chemicals labeled and safely stored?

Select your answer



102. Weapons locker present?

Select your answer



103. Recreation/Sports Equipment:

104. Are the hallways clear, are doors propped open or closed?

Select your answer



105. Holding areas (cells/rooms), is there access to drinking water and toilet?

Select your answer



106. Condition of individual cells/rooms, or dormitories:

107. Beds - Type of bed and is it off the floor?

108. Adequate lighting:

109. Temperature:

View results

Respondent

26

Anonymous

34:28

Time to complete

Inspection Information

1. Location *

Men's Central Jail

2. Date of Previous Inspection *

10/9/2023



3. Date of this Inspection *

4/17/2024



4. Time *

1:45pm

5. Location

Courts

Jails

Sheriff Station

Location

6. Commissioner(s) - (Select all that Apply) *

Ingrid Archie

Haley Broder

Norma Cumpian

Wynter Daggs

Mark - Anthony Clayton Johnson

Bob Frutos

Dr. Cheryl N. Grills

Eric J. Miller

Raymond Regalado

Alexander Sherman

Joahanna Terrones

Mary Veral

Other

Facility Information

7. Facility Name *

Courthouse names and locations: <https://www.lacourt.org/courthouse>

Patrol Names and locations Stations: <https://lasd.org/stations/>

LA County Jail Facilities names and locations: <https://lasd.org/custody/>

Men's Central Jail

8. Facility Address *

Courthouse names and locations: <https://www.lacourt.org/courthouse>

Patrol Names and locations Stations: <https://lasd.org/stations/>

LA County Jail Facilities names and locations: <https://lasd.org/custody/>

441 Bauchet Street,
Los Angeles, CA 90012 General

9. Name and Title of LASD Supervisor Contacted *

Lieutenant Vu, Lieutenant Short

10. Census: Capacity *

4800

11. Current Census *

4051

12. Location(s) Inspected: *

6050, 7000FL (including high power row); 3100/3300, 3500, 3000 FL mess hall, 3907 room and 3000 floor Hunter Library and 3000 FL Education Based Incarceration classrooms

13. Issues reported to (Select all that Apply): *

☐ BOS

☒ Officer in Charge

☐ LASD

☐ ISD

☐ OIG

☐ COC

☐ Other

14. Name of the person(s) issues were reported to: *

Lieutenant Short

15. Contact Information of the person(s) contacted: *

RFshort@lasd.org

Conditions of Confinement

16. Condition of Confinement: Cells/Toilets/Sinks

☐ Satisfactory

☐ Unsatisfactory

☐ Corrective Action Needed

☐ Not Applicable

17. Condition of Confinement COMMENTS RE: Cells/Toilets/Sinks

No hot water in 6502

18. Condition of Confinement: Showers (water temperature, rust, mold etc.)

☐ Satisfactory

☐ Unsatisfactory

☐ Corrective Action Needed

☐ Not Applicable

19. Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE: Showers (water temperature, rust, mold etc.)

Dirty showers in the 3500 block

20. Condition of Confinement: Crowding

☐ Satisfactory

☐ Unsatisfactory

☐ Corrective Action Needed

☐ Not Applicable

21. Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE: Crowding

Individuals who were classified K10 according to their jail bracelets and so should have been assigned single cells with televisions and commissary were assigned to an area with no commissary, television, nor property. These men had the property they had bought taken from them.

22. Condition of Confinement: Cleanliness/Graffiti

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Corrective Action Needed

Not Applicable

23. Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE: Cleanliness/Graffiti

In every dormitory we visited, there was trash covering the floors and the floors were not clean and the jail in general manifested a severe lack of sanitation.

24. Condition of Confinement: Safety, Conflict, Tension

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Corrective Action Needed

Not Applicable

25. Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE: Safety, Conflict, Tension

we witnessed Sheriff Deputy threaten to retaliate against the men housed in 7000 unit in front of their sergeant; we also witnessed the prohibition of purchasing batteries from all but a small proportion of the men incarcerated in the jails which the men said raised their stress levels, undermining their mental health, despite there being other means of responding to safety concerns regarding fires in the jail, and despite there being a pervasive smell of smoke and burning in the jail.

26. Condition of Confinement: Common Areas

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Corrective Action Needed

Not Applicable

27. Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE: Common Areas

The mess hall on the 3000 floor was the severely unsanitary, with food detritus on chairs, tables, and in a cart in the middle of the room, a cupboard in the 7000 block had food left to rot inside it, a room in 3907 had toilets that were covered in black fungus or mold and stank, and the floors of 3100, 3300, 3500, and 7000 were covered with trash.

28. Condition of Confinement: Air Quality/Temperature

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Corrective Action Needed

Not Applicable

29. Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE: Air Quality/Temperature

The men in 7000 claimed there was no air circulating and they found it hard to breathe. They had ended a hunger strike to complain about the conditions because the Lieutenant had allowed the men to keep their food/cuffing hatches open. While we were present, a sergeant appeared, closed the hatches, and announced that a captain had rescinded the lieutenant's policy.

30. Condition of Confinement: Deputy/Detainee Relations (Including Specific Incidents or allegations of misconduct)

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Corrective Action Needed

Not Applicable

31. Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE: Deputy/Detainee Relations (Including Specific Incidents or allegations of misconduct)

A deputy retaliated against the men in the 7000 block. The prohibition on batter purchases appears to be retaliatory.

32. Condition of Confinement: Strip Search Issues

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Corrective Action Needed

Not Applicable

33. Condition of Confinement: Access (Drinking Water)

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Corrective Action Needed

Not Applicable

34. Condition of Confinement: Access (Mail/Reading Materials/Law Library)

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Corrective Action Needed

Not Applicable

35. Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE: Access (Mail/Reading Materials/Law Library)

The Hunter Library had leaks in the ceiling.

36. Condition of Confinement: Access (Toilets for Common Room)

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Corrective Action Needed

Not Applicable

37. Condition of Confinement: Access (Toiletries, Appropriate Combs/Brushes)

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Corrective Action Needed

Not Applicable

38. Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE: Access (Toiletries, Appropriate Combs/Brushes)

The commissioners reported at least one person who lacked toothpaste in the 3500 unit.

39. Condition of Confinement: Access (Exercise, Religious Practice)

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☒ Not Applicable

40. Condition of Confinement: Access (Legal Counsel)

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☒ Not Applicable

41. Condition of Confinement: Access (Visitation, Correspondence)

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☒ Not Applicable

42. Condition of Confinement: Solitary Confinement

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☒ Not Applicable

43. Condition of Confinement: Privacy/Dignity (showers, bathrooms)

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Corrective Action Needed

Not Applicable

44. Condition of Confinement: Special needs populations (pregnant, non-ambulatory, hearing impaired, mentally ill, medical conditions, developmental disability)

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Corrective Action Needed

Not Applicable

45. Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE: Special needs populations (pregnant, non-ambulatory, hearing impaired, mentally ill, medical conditions, developmental disability)

The CPAP men housed in 6500 lacked ADA compliant showers and one lacked a wheelchair, which impeded his ability to attend court.

46. Condition of Confinement: Module Information Postings (re: time calculations, complaint, developmental disability)

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Corrective Action Needed

Not Applicable

47. Condition of Confinement: Complaint Procedure (e.g., Deputy, Medical Complaints - Confidential Procedures to SBC, OIG, COC)

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Corrective Action Needed

Not Applicable

48. Condition of Confinement: Fees Assessed/ Money on Books

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Corrective Action Needed

Not Applicable

49. Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE: Fees Assessed/ Money on Books

Men housed in the 3500 unit who were given a K10 classification lost the property they had bought

50. Condition of Confinement: Other

51. Condition of Confinement: Other

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Corrective Action Needed

Not Applicable

Nutrition

52. Nutrition: Quality/Concerns

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Corrective Action Needed

Not Applicable

53. Nutrition COMMENT RE: Quality/Concerns

Men on the 7000 block and 3000 block complained their food was served cold.

54. Nutrition: Access to special diets

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☒ Not Applicable

Trustees**55. Trustees: Quarters**

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☒ Not Applicable

56. Trustees: Training and Selection

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☒ Not Applicable

57. Trustees: Workload and Hours

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☒ Not Applicable

58. Trustees: Calculation/Time Served

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☐ Not Applicable

Medical Services**59. Medical Services**

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wait Times	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Responsiveness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
TB and Other Medical Screening	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dental	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Infectious Disease Protocol	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

60. COMMENTS RE: Medical**Mental Health**

61. Mental Health Services

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Access				
Wait Times				
Treatment Options				
Assessment Procedures				

62. COMMENTS RE: Mental Health**Telephones****63. Telephones**

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Access				
Functionality				

64. COMMENTS RE: Telephones

We primarily checked on the telephones in 6500 and 7000 and observed functioning telephones and the men had access to them.

Education Based Incarceration Programming (EBI)**65. Education Based Incarceration Programming (EBI)**

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Availability				
Type				
Access				

66. COMMENTS RE: EBI Programming

The rooms in which the men receive education based incarceration were moldy.

67. EBI: Volunteer Services

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Type				
Access				
Concerns				

68. COMMENTS RE EBI: Volunteer Services

Clean Clothing and Bedding

69. Clean Clothing and Bedding (including laundry practices)

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory
- Corrective Action Needed
- Not Applicable

70. COMMENTS RE: Clean Clothing and Bedding (including laundry practices)

The mattresses in 6500 and 3000 did not have a non-absorbent plastic cover and were not changed weekly as required by Title 15.

Facilities/Maintenance

71. Facilities/Maintenance: Back Log Unfilled Order(s)

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Corrective Action Needed

Not Applicable

72. Facilities/Maintenance COMMENTS RE: Back Log Unfilled Order(s)**73. Facilities/Maintenance: Kitchen/Laundry**

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Corrective Action Needed

Not Applicable

Deputy Staffing**74. Deputy Staffing: Quality of Interactions w/Detainees**

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Use of Force (Last 30 days)				
Assault on Staff (Last 30 days)				
Staff Training (MH, trauma informed etc.)				

75. Deputy Staffing COMMENTS RE: Quality of Interactions w/Detainees

76. Detainee Complaints/Concerns COMMENTS:**77. ~~Detainee~~ Deputy Complaint/Concerns COMMENTS:****78. Prior Corrective Action Resolution:****79. Detainee Documentations (e.g., intake/release, procedures):**

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Classification				
Logs				
Detainee management				
Exit interview - policies/procedure grievances				
Generated funds				

80. Detainee Documentation COMMENTS:**81. Discipline Proceedings:**

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☐ Not Applicable

Inspection: Special Focus

82. Inspection: Special Focus

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Available
COC	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CHS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
DMH	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
DPH	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Food Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
OIG	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

83. Inspection: Special Focus Request (Select all that Apply):

- ☐ COC
- ☐ Community
- ☐ CHS
- ☐ DMH
- ☐ DPH
- ☒ Facilities
- ☐ Food Services
- ☐ OIG
- ☐ N/A
- ☐ Other

84. Inspection: Special Focus Request Comments:

--

85. Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Issues:

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Corrective Action Needed

Not Applicable

INSPECTION DETAILS - ANCHORED TO SUMMARIZE #3 THROUGH #106

86. Inspection Detail for #:

87. Inspection Detail for #:

88. Inspection Detail for #:

89. Inspection Detail for **OIG Request Related to:**

90. Inspection Detail for **COC Request Related to:**

91. Inspection Detail for **Community Request Related to:**

92. Inspection Detail: EBI

93. Inspection Detail: Medical

94. Inspection Detail: Medical

95. Inspection Detail: Building and Maintenance (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Lawns
- ☐ Recreation Area
- ☐ Blacktop
- ☐ Asphalt
- ☐ General Condition
- ☐ Paint
- ☐ Roof
- ☐ Drains/Gutters
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Other

96. Inspection Detail: Building and Maintenance

INSPECTION DETAIL: INTERIOR OF BUILDINGS(S)

97. Inspection Detail: Interior of Building(s) and Maintenance (Select all that apply)

- ☒ Walls
- ☐ Paint
- ☒ Floors
- ☐ Drains
- ☐ Plumbing fixtures working
- ☒ Air Vents
- ☐ Windows
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Other

98. Inspection Detail Interior of Building:

The facility floors were filthy, the air ventilation in 7500 was not working, and the walls had concrete crumbling off.

99. Are Cleaning fluids and chemicals labeled and safely stored?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Other

100. Weapons locker present?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Other

101. Recreation/Sports Equipment:

102. Are the hallways clear, are doors propped open or closed?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Other

103. Holding areas (cells/rooms), is there access to drinking water and toilet?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Other

104. Condition of individual cells/rooms, or dormitories:

☐ The floors are filthy.

105. Beds - Type of bed and is it off the floor?

106. Adequate lighting:

107. Temperature:

108. Narrative Report

109. Narrative Continued

Commissioners Miller and Veral visited areas: 6050, 7000FL (including high power row); 3100/3300, 3500, 3000 FL mess hall, 3907 room and 3000 floor Hunter Library and 3000 FL Education Based Incarceration classrooms.

Men's Central Jail is a disintegrating and poorly maintained building. As early as 2014, the Department of Justice described the living conditions at Men's Central Jail as "deficient (dimly lit, vermin-infested, noisy, unsanitary, cramped and crowded)...and create an environment that may contribute to prisoners' mental distress." Letter from U.S. Department of Justice, Mental Health Care and Suicide Prevention Practices at Los Angeles County Jails (June 4, 2014). According to the September 3, 2015, Joint Settlement Agreement Regarding the Los Angeles County Jails; and Stipulated Order of Resolution entered into by the Department of Justice and Los Angeles County before Judge Dean Pregerson, "the County and the Sheriff will have written housekeeping, sanitation, and inspection plans to ensure the proper cleaning of, and trash collection and removal in housing...areas, in accordance with California Code of Regulations ("CCR") Title 15 § 1280: Facility Sanitation, Safety, and Maintenance." Title 15 is, however, somewhat vague. Section 1280 requires written policies and procedures that "shall provide for a regular schedule of housekeeping tasks and inspections to identify and correct unsanitary...conditions."

Despite the last decade of warnings and litigation, the problems of dimly lit, vermin-infested, noisy, and unsanitary conditions with inadequate trash collection and removal in housing dorms, last year this Commission reported to the Board of Supervisors its "alarm[ing] and frustrat[ion] with the regularity with which it finds unsafe, inhumane, and unsanitary conditions in the jails. The recurrence of issues after this Commission brings them to the attention of responsible parties at the Sheriff's Department is evidence of problems not being adequately addressed....The Sheriff's Department's failure to maintain a sanitary facility and to conduct regular inspections of its facilities for sanitary conditions reflects an administrative orientation with a limited commitment to upholding basic values." Los Angeles County Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections Report & Recommendations on the Los Angeles County Jails Humanitarian Crisis July 2023 at 4, 22.

Clearly, the system of relying on trustees and outside contractors to clean Men's Central Jail abjectly fails to ensure sanitary conditions in those areas of the jail occupied by incarcerated men. LASD does keep the areas of the jail occupied by Sheriff Deputies and civilian staff clean. The rest of the jail requires a concerted and consistent effort to bring up to even minimal standards of cleanliness. Since at least 2014, various groups including the Department of Justice, the Central District of California, the ACLU, and the Sybil Brand Commission have pointed out the severe, prolonged lack of sanitation in Men's Central Jail. We note that federal law establishes such conditions "constitute an infliction of pain within the meaning of the Eighth Amendment." *Johnson v. Lewis*, 217 F.3d 726, 731 (9th Cir. 2000)

Our most recent inspection of Men's Central Jail, which covered 6050, 7000FL (including high power row); 3100/3300, 3500, and 3000 FL mess hall along with the Hunter Library and 3000 FL Education Based Incarceration classrooms, revealed disgusting, unsanitary conditions in the areas occupied and used by the men incarcerated in that facility. The condition of these areas contrasts with the relatively clean areas occupied by the Sheriffs and suggest that the Sheriff's Department can and does keep the jail clean in those areas it wants to and deliberately neglects the other parts of the jail.

We shall now focus on the specific areas that the Commissioners visited.

6050

People in 6050 are GP but use CPAPs. They had recently moved to this area from the

110. Narrative Continued

7000 floor. The cells are organized so that there are 8 people to a cell. However, moving incarcerated people to this location solely on the basis of their medical condition imposed some new restriction including lack of access to the library. Furthermore, despite the medical justification for the move, the cells were not properly fitted out for people with disabilities. For example, one man in the module did have a wheelchair and said he had difficulty transferring when he takes a shower. The shower had a lip and did not appear to be ADA-compliant. There was no hot water in cell 6052. There is a large brown stain on the wall outside the 6050 module. It appears to be a result of a large water leak through the ceiling. The brown stain has been on the wall during previous MCJ inspections. A couple of people reported they were concerned about retaliation for talking to us. Further evidence of retaliation were provided in complaints about the arbitrary allocation of wheelchairs. One gentleman in 6050 has a walker because the Sheriffs refuse to give him a wheelchair for court. As a result, he reported he has missed three court dates. 7000 Leaking ceiling in the hallway Highpower/hard cells: The Commissioners visited the 7000 Block cells to check on a reported hunger strike. This row is for individuals who have medical issues, and the Sheriffs designate as a K10 classification under the LASD Special Handling Codes (Court Services Division §2-07/015.10), which means that they are a "High Jail Security Risk...who...require administrative segregation from the general population at all times." The 7000 unit is not a disciplinary area, but it appears to be treated as such. A deputy unlocked the large metal door to let us access this row when he was doing his 30-minute security walk. Besides some light TV noise, neither Commissioner Veral nor Commissioner Miller could not hear anything on the row until the large door was open. Upon entering the row, the Commissioners observed water dripping from the ceiling, a hole in high in the wall in the middle of the unit where the concrete had crumbled away, and food all over the floor. The people incarcerated in this unit complained that the Sheriffs allowed trash to accumulate for days at a time. One Deputy showed the Commissioners a cupboard where food seemed to have been shoved under the door and left to rot. People here reported they do not get access to programming of any kind, and they don't get out of their cells at all. The cells do not have emergency call buttons so given their medical issues, they wanted to be able to alert for help if something happened. Deputies are on this row two times per hour, however, as we have consistently observed at County jail facilities, the security checks we observed were very brief and perfunctory. When we walked in, there was trash everywhere. People complained that minimal air circulates in their cells, so they wanted the tray slots open. When these slots were closed, the men had gone on hunger strike: the men stopped the strike because a Lieutenant let the men keep them open, so they weren't "enforcing" the policy. During our visit, six deputies appeared including a sergeant to inform the incarcerated men that a captain had decided to overturn the open-slot policy. The sudden appearance of five deputies and a sergeant seemed odd: the deputies were not taking anyone out of the cells and some of the deputies were hanging outside the unit. It appeared to the Commissioners that our presence had drawn the attention of the deputies to the unit. The deputies told the people incarcerated that they needed to close the tray slots, per the unit order and "the Captain's orders." One gentleman refused to close the slot because he could not get air in his cell. Deputy Cruz became very aggressive with this man right in front of us. One man complained that, if the people in the unit tried to alert the Sheriffs to an emergency, there was no way the

111. Narrative Continued

Sheriffs could hear. Deputy Cruz then threatened to turn off all the television channels so that there would be no noise. This threat of retaliation was very disturbing to witness, especially because the Commissioners, as observers, were standing right next to the Sheriffs and the Sergeant did not object to this retaliatory threat. When we reported the incident to the Watch Commander, he did condemn the behavior; however, part because the deputy should "know your audience," suggesting that part of the problem was retaliating in front of the Commissioners. The Commissioners are very concerned for how people are treated when we are not present.

3100/3300

In June 2023 SBC commissioners witnessed fires in cells and brought the issue to the attention of LASD in hopes they would take steps to ensure the safety of people incarcerated and working inside of Men's Central Jail. LASD has not done anything to address the issue except to take away batteries from everyone incarcerated in the jail except a few people in the 1700 and 1750 units. People in the 3100 and 3300 rows get very limited out of cell time and the batteries for their "radios" or MP3 players, and which also provides a channel that enables them to listen to the television. Their radios are one of the few things they can purchase to help with their mental health by providing music and entertainment while they are confined in their cell. Without batteries they are useless. The Commission previously reported the fires previously occurring in a different area of the jail, not the K10 area we visited. The Commission also reported that the fires were often used to heat food; the men we spoke to suggested they also needed the extra heat to keep warm. There are a variety of actions that could have been taken to ensure that fires were dealt with: frequent inspections should disclose the source of fires; providing food heaters and extra blankets are other options. The Watch Commander did not explain adequately why prohibiting the purchase of batteries was the only possible response to the issue of fires. Instead, the LASD's response that appears to have been taken in requital of the Commissioner's report about the fires (which was also reported in the LA Times).

Despite the battery confiscation, during this visit, the Commissioners noted a strong smell of smoke during this inspection when walking the modules and when walking through the main corridor outside the watch commander's office. It is very disturbing that SBC raised an issue, and the only response was to take things from people incarcerated, rather than increasing supervision or installing fire alarms.

3000 Mess Hall

Title 15, § 1245. Kitchen Facilities, Sanitation, and Food Storage requires that "food preparation, service, and storage shall comply with standards set forth in Health and Safety Code, Division 104, Part 7, Chapters 1-13, Sections 113700 et seq. California Retail Food Code." However, the Mess Hall was in a disgraceful state. The Mess Hall was empty; no-one was there to clean it. Food scraps covered tables and chairs around the Hall. A pile of cooked rice with some kind of sauce was on a cart in the middle of the room with a swarm of flies all around it. The Commissioners found rat traps placed along three of the walls. A concrete column in the middle of the Hall was crumbling, and there was water leaking through the roof.

Hunter's Library and the two Education Based Incarceration classrooms that we visited had leaks in ceiling and the classroom ceiling were covered with mold.

3907

This is a set of rooms behind a door on the 3000 floor. We went inside and there was standing water in a toilet that was dark brown and smelled like mold. There was also a full trash bin and other trash strewn about. Commissioner Veral almost threw up from the smell.

3500

A row - Shower was dirty and there was trash in the row. There were open milk containers and plastic all over the floor.

This is an

112. Narrative Continued

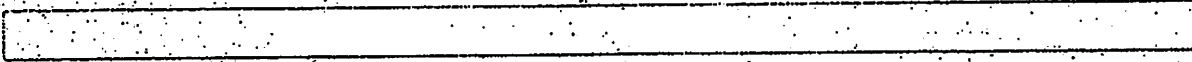
administrative-segregation area where some men are housed while classification is still being determined. However, some of the men were housed because of their K10 classification and the fact that there was nowhere else to put them. That meant that men with commissary privileges and property that they had bought had their property taken from them: the only property given to the men housed in 3500 were the "fish" kits, which are small hygiene given to incarcerated people. One man claimed that he had \$350 worth of property taken from him upon his move to 3500.

The people in this unit do not get access to phones, commissary or television. Some people are here for over 30 days. It was understood why the phones and movement are restricted, but it was not clear to commissioners why people cannot get televisions in this module. This is not supposed to be disciplinary but it felt like it.

One man had just arrived in this row from the hospital, and he did not have toothpaste. This was reported to the W/C. He also reported he had been housed previously at NCCF and was transported to USC hospital for a chest x-ray. He spent four days in the urgent care and hospital before being sent to MCJ for processing. Commissioners are following up individually with LASD regarding this process.

In the 3000 block, the men lacked clean mattresses. Title 15, § 1271 requires that each man in the Jail receive "one serviceable mattress which meets the requirements of Section 1272 of these regulations...Washable items such as sheets, mattress covers, and towels shall be exchanged for clean replacement at least once each week." Section 1272 requires that "Any mattress issued to an inmate in any facility shall be enclosed in an easily cleaned, non-absorbent ticking." The men in 3500 claimed that their mattresses were changed only every two weeks, and in the 3000 block, none of the mattresses appeared to have the non-absorbent plastic covers observed elsewhere in the jails. Instead, the mattresses appeared to be foam with a stretch cotton mattress cover on top. The men complained about the unclean and dilapidated state of the mattresses.

113. Narrative Continued



View results

Respondent

37 Anonymous

11:44

Time to complete

Inspection Information

1. Location *

Men's Central Jail

2. Date of Previous Inspection *

5/10/2024

3. Date of this Inspection *

8/18/2024

4. Time *

12pm-5pm

5. Location

Courts

Jails

Sheriff Station

Location

6. Commissioner(s) - (Select all that Apply) *

ID #:265
ID #:635

Ingrid Archie

Haley Broder

Norma Cumpian

Wynter Daggs

Mark - Anthony Clayton Johnson

Bob Frutos

Dr. Cheryl N. Grills

Eric J. Miller

Raymond Regalado

Alexander Sherman

Joahanna Terrones

Mary Veral

Other

Facility Information

7. Facility Name *

Courthouse names and locations: <https://www.lacourt.org/courthouse>Patrol Names and locations Stations: <https://lasd.org/stations/>LA County Jail Facilities names and locations: <https://lasd.org/custody/>

Men's Central Jail

8. Facility Address *

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Los Angeles CA90012General

9. Name and Title of LASD Supervisor Contacted *

Acting Captain Marchello

4,642

11. Current Census *

4,031

12. Location(s) Inspected: *

8000, 9,000, 5,000, 1700

13. Issues reported to (Select all that Apply): *

☐ BOS☒ Officer in Charge☐ LASD☐ ISD☐ OIG☐ COC☒ Correctional Health Services

14. Name of the person(s) issues were reported to: *

Acting Captain Marchello; Dr. Sean Henderson

15. Contact Information of the person(s) contacted: *

rlmarche@lasd.org; SHenderson@dhs.lacounty.gov

Conditions of Confinement

16. Condition of Confinement: Cells/Toilets/Sinks

☐ Satisfactory☐ Unsatisfactory☒ Corrective Action Needed☐ Not Applicable

18. Condition of Confinement: Showers (water temperature, rust, mold etc.)

☐ Satisfactory

☐ Unsatisfactory

☐ Corrective Action Needed

☐ Not Applicable

19. Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE: Showers (water temperature, rust, mold etc.)

20. Condition of Confinement: Crowding

☐ Satisfactory

☐ Unsatisfactory

☐ Corrective Action Needed

☐ Not Applicable

21. Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE: Crowding

22. Condition of Confinement: Cleanliness/Graffiti

☐ Satisfactory

☐ Unsatisfactory

☐ Corrective Action Needed

☐ Not Applicable

23. Conditions of Confinement COMMENT RE: Cleanliness/Graffiti

24. Condition of Confinement: Safety, Conflict, Tension

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☐ Not Applicable

Nutrition

25. Nutrition: Quality/Concerns

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☒ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☐ Not Applicable

26. Nutrition COMMENT RE: Quality/Concerns

27. Nutrition: Access to special diets

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☒ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☐ Not Applicable

28. Nutrition COMMENT RE: Access to special diets

Trustees

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☐ Not Applicable

Medical Services

30. Medical Services

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Access	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wait Times	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Responsiveness	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
TB and Other Medical Screening	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dental	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Infectious Disease Protocol	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

31. COMMENTS RE: Medical

Mental Health

32. Mental Health Services

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wait Times	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Treatment Options	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assessment Procedures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

33. **COMMENTS RE:** Mental Health**Telephones**34. **Telephones**

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Access				
Functionality				

35. **COMMENTS RE:** Telephones**Education Based Incarceration Programming (EBI)**36. **Education Based Incarceration Programming (EBI)**

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Availability				
Type				
Access				

37. **COMMENTS RE:** EBI Programming38. **EBI: Volunteer Services**

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Type				
Access				
Concerns				

Clean Clothing and Bedding

40. Clean Clothing and Bedding (including laundry practices)

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Corrective Action Needed

Not Applicable

41. COMMENTS RE: Clean Clothing and Bedding (including laundry practices)

Facilities/Maintenance

42. Facilities/Maintenance: Back Log Unfilled Order(s)

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Corrective Action Needed

Not Applicable

43. Facilities/Maintenance COMMENTS RE: Back Log Unfilled Order(s)

44. Facilities/Maintenance: Kitchen/Laundry

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Corrective Action Needed

Not Applicable

45. Deputy Staffing: Quality of Interactions w/Detainees

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Use of Force (Last 30 days)				
Assault on Staff (Last 30 days)				
Staff Training (MH, trauma Informed etc.)				

46. Deputy Staffing COMMENTS RE: Quality of Interactions w/Detainees**47. Detainee Complaints/Concerns COMMENTS:****48. Deputy Complaint/Concerns COMMENTS:****49. Prior Corrective Action Resolution:****50. Detainee Documentations (e.g., intake/release, procedures):**

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Applicable
Classification				
Logs				
Detainee management				
Exit Interview - policies/proced ure grievances				
Generated funds				

51. Detainee Documentation COMMENTS:

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Unsatisfactory
- ☐ Corrective Action Needed
- ☐ Not Applicable

Inspection: Special Focus**53. Inspection: Special Focus**

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Corrective Action Needed	Not Available
COC	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CHS	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
DMH	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
DPH	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Food Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
OIG			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

54. Inspection: Special Focus Request (Select all that Apply):

- ☐ COC
- ☐ Community
- ☐ CHS
- ☐ DMH
- ☐ DPH
- ☒ Facilities
- ☐ Food Services
- ☐ OIG
- ☐ N/A
- ☐ Other

55. Inspection: Special Focus Request Comments:

56. Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Issues:

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Corrective Action Needed

Not Applicable

INSPECTION DETAILS - ANCHORED TO SUMMARIZE #3 THROUGH #106

57. Inspection Detail for #:

58. Inspection Detail for #:

59. Inspection Detail for #:

60. Inspection Detail for **OIG** Request Related to:

61. Inspection Detail for **COC** Request Related to:

62. Inspection Detail for **Community Request** Related to:

63. Inspection Detail: **EBI**

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64. Inspection Detail: MedicalDocument 48-1
ID #:645

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65. Inspection Detail: Medical

66. Inspection Detail: Building and Maintenance *(Select all that apply)*

- ☐ Lawns
- ☒ Recreation Area
- ☐ Blacktop
- ☐ Asphalt
- ☐ General Condition
- ☐ Paint
- ☐ Roof
- ☐ Drains/Gutters
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Other

67. Inspection Detail: Building and Maintenance

INSPECTION DETAIL: INTERIOR OF BUILDINGS(S)

68. Inspection Detail Interior of Building(s) and Maintenance (Select all that apply)

ID #:646

- ☐ Walls
- ☐ Paint
- ☐ Floors
- ☐ Drains
- ☐ Plumbing fixtures working
- ☐ Air Vents
- ☐ Windows
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Other

69. Inspection Detail Interior of Building:

70. Are Cleaning fluids and chemicals labeled and safely stored?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Other

71. Weapons locker present?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Other

72. Recreation/Sports Equipment:

73. Are the hallways clear, are doors propped open or closed?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not Applicable

☐ Other

74. Holding areas (cells/rooms), is there access to drinking water and toilet?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not Applicable

☐ Other

75. Condition of individual cells/rooms, or dormitories:

76. Beds - Type of bed and is it off the floor?

77. Adequate lighting:

78. Temperature:

The Watch Commander informed the Commissioners that the staff was short 24 deputies on day shift. A poster in office stating "two days since last category 2" incident, which the Watch Commander informed the Commissioners was an incident involving injury and force of some sort. He also noted that the main downstairs elevator bank has one elevator out of order, and that a California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) inspection is expected soon: a focus of that inspection was the use of bedding, towels, and clothing to obscure people incarcerated in the jail from the view of other people, including LASD staff (known colloquially as "tenting"). Operations to eradicate tenting were underway daily and planned for 3PM in 5000s

8000

The 8000 unit is designated by LASD as a medical housing unit. Individuals are housed in large cells that hold up to about 10 people. During the Commissioner's visit, an alarm made a loud, ululating sound that was constant and omnipresent throughout the first front area (near 8214/8100). If there were an emergency requiring the attention of the Deputies, the incarcerated men would have difficulty making themselves heard above the alarm.

Room 8109 was a recreation room. However, of the 5 telephones, only 2 were in working order. There was mold on the ceiling.

The 8120 pod housed eight people. The cell had mold and stains on the wall. The people housed there requested a hot pot.

The 8122 pod housed civil detainees. The people living there complained of leaks that covered about a quarter of the cell when it rained. They also showed the Commissioner where they had cleaned black mold from the ceiling using soap and toilet paper. The telephone did not work properly, and the television cables were frayed. The cleaning trustees (incarcerated people given cleaning duties) were not allowed in the cell because the cell housed civil detainees.

In pods 8214 and 8119, the sink did not work and the toilet was out of order. The water temperature was scalding hot and had burned four people, including one that had suffered a second-degree burn. The staff did not clean the showers properly. One individual in a wheelchair fell multiple times due to inaccessible seating which made it impossible to sit on the benches in the dorm. A paralyzed man slipped on a bench. They asked for bathtub but not allowed to use it instead of shower.

One of the incarcerated people alleged he had his foot crushed by a deputy the previous week.

People in the 8214 reported that transportation to prison without wheelchairs is nonexistent. One person reported he has been waiting eight months since his sentencing to be moved to prison and has been unable to be taken due to transport difficulties as he is in a wheelchair. Another person stated he has an August 29th release set from Delano Prison but was told transportation to get there was not possible with his wheelchair.

We spoke with the Watch Commander, who stated he would like to change this ASAP and confirmed there was wheelchair-accessible transportation.

There was a massive, nonstop leak from the ceiling the 8230 area corridor that covered about thirteen yards by three yards. The hall has three large trashcans, five crates, a mop and bucket to soak up all the water. There is a nonstop leak, deputies report it has been there for at least one week. A trustee reported he has been disciplined by deputies for not successfully getting rid of the leaky water on the floor. Multiple people had slipped. The inspectors also slipped walking over near there.

Lights were off in several living areas, each housing 11-16 people. We watched deputies not enter the areas for the 30-minute security checks but swipe the scanner on the outside of the door. We watched deputies conduct checks without stopping and looking inside the rooms. We noticed that when we looked inside when the lights were off, you could not see anything very quickly.

80. Narrative Continued

In the 8118 pod, one toilet had been malfunctioning for over five weeks (verified) and likely much longer, according to people living in the room. This leaves one toilet for 11-12 people. There had been work orders made but the issue remained unresolved.

In 4120, in front of the Education Based Incarceration room in which the men have educational classes, the Commissioners walked through the unit, they observed water (possible leak).

In room 4188 the commissioners observed three computer boxes in a room on the wall which are used to look up court date and hospital information, but these do not work.

9000

The 9500 dorm housed 80 people out of a possible 147. This is significantly more than the number recommended by California BSCC Title 24, which mandates a maximum of 64 people per dorm.

The 9400 dorm housed 93 people out of a possible 102. The men in 9400 were triple bunked. Triple bunking, in which there are three levels of beds, makes the dorm significantly crowded. The dorm recently engaged in a hunger strike for hot food (confirmed by the watch commander) and although the hunger-strike had ended, there was still no hot food for special diets currently provided.

The men incarcerated in the dorm reported that someone was tampering with the food before it was served to them, and that the special diets coming cold. They also complained that there was no church or school offering. They reported that visits did not last the full 30 minutes or that their families had to wait a significant length of time on each visit. They complained that the mail was slow and that "urban" books market to a Black audience were returned, even though books with a similar content marketed to a general audience were not. They also complained that family photos were sent back and stated that a trustee alleged that they had found mail in the hall trash.

Three of the toilets do not flush and the urinal does not function. Furthermore, the nightly 30-minute checks are startling, because the Deputies use shine blue light flashlights the men's face at night, waking them from their sleep.

The 9300 dorm housed 97 out of a possible 103 people who are triple bunked. They had just ended a three-day hunger strike which they had commenced due a severe lack of chairs for everyone to sit and eat. The watch commander confirmed that another four are coming in a month.

Again, the water pressure is too hard and too hot. The mail is coming 1-2 months late, outgoing is just weekly. One phone does not work. Yard time is limited to once a week or less. There is a dangling cable in front of the second TV with a blunt wire. Tenting operations were underway during the commissioners' visit.

The jail was on modified lockdown during this inspection, so medical, visiting, and other appointments were severely delayed. This delay was confirmed to us by the medical staff, who told us how this makes it difficult for them to complete appointments, including changing wound care. This lockdown was apparently because not enough staff showed up to work that day. We noticed, despite the "short staff," at one point, we went into a deputy station, and there were over 10 deputies sitting around on chairs chatting.

The complaint box outside of the 9500 dorm was full of grievance forms that had yet to be collected. The commissioners conducted this inspection on the afternoon of 8/18, and there were forms dated 8/16. Per policy, forms are supposed to be collected on every shift.

5900

The 5900 dorm was triple bunked with 87 out of 87 beds filled. Shortly after the commissioners arrived, LASD deputies announced that ten people could visit the chapel, which resulted in a rush of people trying to get dressed and to the front of the line. A number of people were unable to attend chapel.

81. Narrative Continued

The commissioners discovered three mattresses on the floor in the corner of the unit. The people incarcerated in the dorm reported that there are not enough beds for everyone inside in the dorm. With lower bunk crones and the dorm at capacity, people are sleeping on the floor. Multiple transgender women reported needing hormones, along with bras, and underwear. A group of women had requested to be moved to Century Regional Detention Facility, which is the women's jail. Another trans woman voiced concerns about male searches to her body. The showers had recently been painted to cover the mold on the ceiling. There was a black, tar-like liquid in the drains in the showers. The concrete on the shower wall entrance was crumbling. The urinal did not work if it flushed, the effluence would emerge through the mid-floor drain. One of the toilets had what looked like feces in it and did not flush. The water buttons on the sink did not work. The water in the main drinking fountain was hot. People in the dorm requested blankets; others reported that they had found plastic in their food. Others reported rat feces and claimed the food smelled like rat urine. They also observed styrofoam cups with teethmarks. The people in the dorm also voiced concerns about the jail's anti-tenting operation. The people in the dorm complained that they received just one pair of clothes per week and needed to wash and hang them to dry. However, the jail's anti-tenting operation prevents hanging clothes from lines between the beds in the dorms, and there is no other place to hang clothes. In addition, the supplies used for hygiene (soap, toothpaste and toothbrush, etc.) known as a FISH Kit, are still not adequately distributed. The Commissioners had raised this issue in the May 2024 report for both the 5800 and 5900 dorms. The residents of 5900 reported that guards conduct lottery games to give out a limited supply of FISH Kits. The people housed in the 5900 dorm also concerns about people who have seizures being treated with Narcan. The watch commander reported that the medical staff's protocol was to treat any seizure with Narcan first, in part because it does no harm. The policy is then to follow up with further treatment. The watch commander agreed that a town hall may be needed to educate the dorm about this policy around Narcan and its safety. However, part of the residents' concern appeared to be that the Narcan was used instead of other treatments. Incarcerated people were concerned about recent deaths and violence in and around this dorm. They also complained about the recent increase in canteen prices. Four people complained they had lost large sums of money through a fraud scheme. The scheme involved the use of a "tank sheet," which lists the names of the people incarcerated in a dorm and which a dorm leader uses to help coordinate the commissary. The defrauded men complained that other incarcerated people would fill out commissary order forms in their names and then cut their names out of the tank sheet and place them on the other incarcerated people's identification bracelets. When the commissary delivery arrived, the defrauded person would either be in another dorm or the fraudsters would create a noisy distraction. The defrauded people had lost sums amounting to \$600; \$350; \$291 and \$84. 1700 At the beginning the commissioners' visit, the LASD deputies, did not allow the commissioners space to conduct interviews with the people incarcerated in the unit. Instead, a number of deputies stood very close to commissioners (despite talking to people locked in their cells, some of which were hard cells covered with plexiglass) while we tried to speak with people. They refused to step back when asked.

82. Narrative Continued

Deputies must allow inspectors to inspect w/o escort so that people feel safe and comfortable enough to share freely with inspectors. This did not initially happen on this visit. Commissioners had to bring it to the attention of the watch commander who quickly remedied the problem.

Since our last visit, the unit is much brighter (lights are on). The large-screen television has been taken down in the deputy watch room.

In Unit B, commissioners observed trash in shower, and that the shower had very hot water. One person was concerned about being booked under the wrong name. People reported they had not been offered outdoor recreation every week as required by Title 15. Commissioners would request that LASD provide us with the UDAL checks for the past two months for this area to verify if people are being offered outdoor recreation as required and at what time of day it is occurring.

Row E mattresses are not plastic-covered.

Row F's shower was boiling hot, so that people on F Row had to take showers in E row. There was lots of trash, and the row was incredibly moldy, with each vent covered with about one foot square of black mold, and black mold stretching down the walls. In addition, there are a number of holes in the concrete where it has crumbled away. The incarcerated people expressed concerns about rats, cockroaches, and flies. Many of the men had pasted plastic over their vents to prevent rats entering, and some had placed bottles across the front of the cells to alert them should a rat try to enter. The rats audibly move when the men bang on the toilet and back behind cells; roaches come out of the drain. One man reported a roach in his food.

They are provided with only one pair of clothes.

A number of cells were non-functional due to lack of plumbing in the cell.

F13: The TV only works if you have radio. Some men have requested radio weeks ago but have not received it so cannot hear television.

One person on F row (the name was provided to the Watch Commander) showed commissioners that he had sent out a mail to loved ones only to have it returned as "undeliverable" with a yellow sticker that appeared to come from the post office. However, these envelopes were not stamped with a postmark, so this individual was concerned that the letters were not going out at all, but rather someone in the jail was blocking his mail and putting the yellow "return to sender" sticker on his mail.

The men report that they are not getting to the Day Room.

One of the commissioners stepped on feces or mold (it was difficult to tell) in a cell.

F row does not have request forms or grievance forms

G Row. The lights in cells are on 24/7, request that they turn them off. The floors are extremely dirty throughout this area (1700/1750)

83. Narrative Continued

84. Narrative Continued

85. Overall, how would you rate this facility? *

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

EXHIBIT 2

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY - DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

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CONTINUED EXPLANATION OF THE ISSUE, INCIDENT, AND ACTION REQUESTED BY THE INMATE:

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY - DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

BRIEF SUMMARY OF INITIAL ACTIONS TAKEN:

INTERIM STATUS		
FORCE INVESTIGATION		REFERRED – COURT SERVICES
REF# _____		REFERRED – MEDICAL SERVICES
I.A.B INVESTIGATION		REFERRED – DMH
I.C.I.B INVESTIGATION		REFERRED – OTHER
LATE INVESTIGATION - ONGOING		REFERRED – OTHER AGENCY / ENTITY / STATION
REFERRED – CHAPLAIN		UNIT LEVEL INVESTIGATION

APPROVED BY WATCH COMMANDER	DATE	UNIT INMATE GRIEVANCE COORDINATOR REVIEW	DATE
<p>Grievances marked as an "emergency" shall be approved by the watch commander and reviewed by the unit inmate grievance coordinator.</p>		<p>Unit Commander Notification Made? <input type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO (Notification Only As Needed Per CDM 8-03/010.00)</p>	

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

INMATE GRIEVANCE FORM

See the back copy for instructions.

All grievances must be filed within 15 calendar days.
Grievances will be responded to within 15 calendar days.

Appeals must be filed within 15 calendar days.

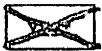
Only one grievance per form.

Solamente una queja por forma.

3025

Is this grievance an emergency?

¿Es ésta queja una emergencia?



NO

If this is a medical or mental health emergency or you are aware of a specific and immediate threat to your life/safety, notify custody personnel immediately.

Si ésta es una emergencia médica o de salud mental, o si tiene conocimiento de una amenaza específica e inmediata contra su vida/seguridad, notifique a un alguacil de inmediato.

NAME

NOMBRE

BOOKING NUMBER

SU NÚMERO DE PRISÓ

FACILITY

FACILIDAD

HOUSING LOC.

LUGAR DE VIVIENDA

DATE

FECHA

Robert Camou

5691867

MCJ

3700 D22

8/25/23

I HAVE A GRIEVANCE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING:

GENERAL SERVICES

- ☐ Living conditions ☐ Classification
☐ Food ☐ Telephone
☐ Showers ☐ Visiting
☐ Property
☐ Mail
☐ Commissary/Account Balance
☐ Clothing/Linen/Bedding
☐ Educational/Vocational Programs
☐ Other (explain below)

MEDICAL/MENTAL

- ☒ Medical Services (Place in envelope)
☐ Mental Health (Place in envelope)
☒ Dental (Place in envelope)
☐ Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
☐ Other (explain below)

STAFF

- ☐ Custody Personnel
☐ Medical Staff
☐ Mental Health Staff
☐ Other (explain below)
 Optional (check only if applicable):
☐ Use of force
☐ Retaliation
☐ Harassment
☐ Racial or identity profiling
 Specify the type(s) in your explanation.
 (please refer to the reverse side of the pink copy for more information)

PLEASE EXPLAIN THE SPECIFIC ISSUE OR DATE OF INCIDENT, AND THE ACTION REQUESTED:

DATE, TIME, DAY OF OCCURRENCE

FACILITY OF OCCURRENCE

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE

8/25/23, 5pm, Friday

L.A. Men's Central Jail

3700 D-22

I am in constant pain, my filling fell out then half of the molar chipped off exposing the nerve. I need immediate medical/dental care, but the jail has been deliberately indifferent (U.S. Const. amend. XIV), failing to get me the care I need. *needed, additional space is provided on the back of this page.*

- ☐ In the event I am released prior to the disposition of this grievance, I waive my right to receive a mailed notification of the resolution.
☒ In the event I am released prior to the disposition of this grievance, I would like to receive a mailed notification of the resolution.

Mailing address: 815 S. Central Ave #30 City: Glendale State: CA ZIP: 91204 Phone: (818) 399-6197

Attention: Conflict Resolution may be available and is voluntary for both the inmate and the involved personnel to address a grievance instead of the Department conducting a personnel investigation and determining a finding to resolve the grievance.

Inmate's Signature

x

R. Camou

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY - DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

Employee Receiving Grievance		Employee #	Date and Time of Collection and Review
DCI Rami		11111	8/24/23 07:30
*Watch commander notified of emergency grievance. <i>L.T. R. Marchese #406898 8/24/23 07:30</i>			
This grievance <input type="checkbox"/> was <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> was not handled as an emergency. If not, please explain below.			
Note: Any aspect of an emergency grievance determined to be non-emergent will be processed within the standard time frame.			
If a disposition was rendered, please complete:		BRIEF SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN	
FINDINGS	RELIEF	FORWARD TO MEDICAL	
<input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINED	<input type="checkbox"/> GRANTED		
<input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINED IN PART	<input type="checkbox"/> GRANTED IN PART		
<input type="checkbox"/> NOT SUSTAINED	<input type="checkbox"/> DENIED		
<input type="checkbox"/> INCONCLUSIVE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIEF UNAVAILABLE		
Full disposition shall be entered in the Custody Automated Report Tracking System (CARTS).			
Inmate was notified of disposition/status/modification by: _____ (Supervisor), on _____ (Date/Time).			
Supervising Nurse Receiving Grievance		Employee #	Date and Time of Review
U.S. 11111 08/27/23			

FRONT PART 1 (WHITE COPY)

LAST NAME

FIRST NAME

MIDDLE NAME

#11

RELEASE DATE

REFERENCE NUMBER

CONTINUED EXPLANATION OF THE ISSUE, INCIDENT, AND ACTION REQUESTED BY THE INMATE:

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY – DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

Patient signature

Date 12/28/23

BRIEF SUMMARY OF INITIAL ACTIONS TAKEN:

CHART REVIEW DONE, PT. WAS SEEN BY DENTIST ON 11/03/23. ON CCU LINE 12/12/23
 12/22/23. R. MARTA, RN

If an emergency disposition is not rendered at this time, please indicate an interim status below:

INTERIM STATUS			
FORCE INVESTIGATION	REF#		REFERRED – COURT SERVICES
			REFERRED – MEDICAL SERVICES
I.A.B INVESTIGATION			REFERRED – DMH
I.C.I.B INVESTIGATION			REFERRED – OTHER
LATE INVESTIGATION - ONGOING			REFERRED – OTHER AGENCY / ENTITY / STATION
REFERRED – CHAPLAIN			UNIT LEVEL INVESTIGATION

*Full disposition or interim status shall be entered in the Custody Automated Report Tracking System (CARTS).

APPROVED BY WATCH COMMANDER	DATE	UNIT INMATE GRIEVANCE COORDINATOR REVIEW	DATE
Grievances marked as an "emergency" shall be approved by the watch commander and reviewed by the unit inmate grievance coordinator.		Unit Commander Notification Made? <input type="checkbox"/> YES OR <input type="checkbox"/> NO (Notification Only As Needed Per COM 8-03/010.00)	

BACK PART 1 (WHITE COPY)

<p>Is this grievance an emergency? ¿Es ésta queja una emergencia?</p> <p>YES* <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If this is a medical or mental health emergency or you are aware of a specific and immediate threat to your life/safety, notify custody personnel immediately.</p> <p>Si ésta es una emergencia médica o de salud mental, o si tiene conocimiento de una amenaza específica e inmediata contra su vida/seguridad, notifique a un alguacil de inmediato.</p>		<p>COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT</p> <p>INMATE GRIEVANCE FORM</p> <p>See the back copy for instructions.</p> <p>All grievances must be filed within 15 calendar days. Grievances will be responded to within 15 days. Appeals must be filed within 15 calendar days.</p> <p>Only one grievance per form. Solamente una queja por forma.</p>			
NAME NOMBRE	BOOKING NUMBER SU NÚMERO DE PRESO	FACILITY FACILIDAD	HOUSING LOC. LUGAR DE VIVIENDA	DATE FECHA	
ROBERT CAMOU	5691867	LA Men's Central Jail	3700 D-22	2/16/24	
I HAVE A GRIEVANCE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING:					
GENERAL SERVICES		MEDICAL/MENTAL	STAFF		
<input type="checkbox"/> Living conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Classification <input type="checkbox"/> Food <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone <input type="checkbox"/> Showers <input type="checkbox"/> Visiting <input type="checkbox"/> Property <input type="checkbox"/> Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Commissary/Account Balance <input type="checkbox"/> Clothing/Linen/Bedding <input type="checkbox"/> Educational/Vocational Programs <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain below)		<input type="checkbox"/> Medical Services (Place in envelope) <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health (Place in envelope) <input type="checkbox"/> Dental (Place in envelope) <input type="checkbox"/> Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Custody Personnel <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medical Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (explain below) Optional (check only if applicable): <input type="checkbox"/> Use of force <input type="checkbox"/> Retaliation <input type="checkbox"/> Harassment <input type="checkbox"/> Racial or identity profiling Specify the type(s) in your explanation. (please refer to the reverse side of the pink copy for more information)		
PLEASE EXPLAIN THE SPECIFIC ISSUE OR DATE OF INCIDENT, AND THE ACTION REQUESTED:					
DATE, TIME, DAY OF OCCURRENCE		FACILITY OF OCCURRENCE		LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE	
12/21/23 About 12pm, Thursday		LA Men's Central Jail		3700 D-22	
The jail failed to help me when I was in pain with a tooth ache. I filed grievances, medical forms and called the OIG, but was left without aid. My medical emergency grievance wasn't treated as an emergency because the jail's (LASD's Countywide) standards.					
<input type="checkbox"/> In the event I am released prior to the disposition of this grievance, I waive my right to receive a mailed notification of the resolution. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In the event I am released prior to the disposition of this grievance, I would like to receive a mailed notification of the resolution.					
Mailing address <u>815 S. Central Ave #20</u> City <u>Glendale</u> State <u>CA</u> ZIP <u>91204</u> Phone <u>(818) 399-6197</u>					
Attention: Conflict Resolution may be available and is voluntary for both the inmate and the involved personnel to address a grievance instead of the Department conducting a personnel investigation and determining a finding to resolve the grievance.					
Inmate's Signature <u>Robert Camou</u>					

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY – DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

Emergency Grievances

- If this is a medical or mental health emergency or you are aware of a specific and immediate threat to your life or safety, notify custody personnel immediately. You may request that a grievance be handled as an emergency by marking an "X" in the "YES" box located in the top left corner of the Inmate Grievance Form. An emergency grievance is defined as an urgent matter wherein a disposition according to the regular time limits would subject you to immediate risk of death, personal injury, or irreparable harm. A written response will be provided within five (5) calendar days documenting what action was undertaken.

General Grievances

- As an inmate within the custody of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, you have the right to submit a grievance relating to any condition of confinement using the Inmate Grievance Form. In addition, you also have the right to appeal any disposition regarding your grievance.
- You may obtain an Inmate Grievance Form from your housing location or notify a staff member to obtain one for you.
- All inmate grievances must be as complete as possible.
- All grievances must be submitted to the Sheriff's Department within 15 calendar days of the event upon which the grievance is based, or they will be denied. Exceptions may be made for grievances involving allegations of force, or the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).
- Once the results of the grievance have been determined, a written response will be provided to you, generally within 15 calendar days after the submission of the grievance.
- You will be asked to sign the written response upon receipt.
- All appeals shall be submitted on an Inmate Grievance Appeal Form which will be provided to you when you are notified of the disposition of your grievance.
- Failure to file a grievance or appeal may waive rights to seek relief from a court of law.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Request/Grievance Procedure

- The grievance must contain your name, booking number, housing location.
- Include a brief description of what you are grieving.
- Indicate the actions you are requesting for the Department to take to correct any alleged violation(s).
- Grievances should be addressed to the Custody Division ADA Coordinator:

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department - Custody Division ADA Coordinator
Custody Compliance and Sustainability Bureau
450 Bauchet St., Room E-883, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: (213) 893-5500 TTY: (323) 267-6669 Email: adacompcus@lasd.org

- You may request an informal meeting regarding accommodations through the Custody ADA Coordinator to discuss the grievance.
- Using this informal request/grievance procedure is not a requirement under federal regulations, nor does it prevent you from filing a grievance with the appropriate federal enforcement agency.
- Alternatively, your ADA request may be submitted on the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Inmate Request Form.

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has zero tolerance for sexual abuse and abides by the standards set forth in the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA). PREA is a Federal law established to address the elimination and prevention of sexual assault and rape in correctional institutions. If you have been the victim or witness of any sexual assault or sexual abuse, report it. You may notify any custody personnel, fill out a confidential Inmate Grievance Form, or call any of the following phone numbers:

Los Angeles County Office of the Inspector General (OIG)
(800) 801 - 0030
National Sexual Assault Hotline
(800) 656 -4673

Medical or Mental Health Concerns

- If you feel you need to see a Mental Health worker, please contact any staff member right away.
- You may submit a confidential grievance for medical or mental health related concerns by placing the completed Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Inmate Grievance Form into a white envelope available in your housing area.

Racial or Identity Profiling Grievances

You may file a grievance regarding an incident of perceived racial or identity profiling, involving one or more of the following factors:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------|---------------------------------|
| • Race or ethnicity | • Gender | • Age | • Sexual orientation |
| • Nationality | • Gender expression | • Religion | • Mental or physical disability |

CAMOU ROBERT ANTHONY #14 5691867 TBD

for what constitutes an emergency are too high so they fail to act when it is needed. The same is true of how I tried on multiple occasions to go 'man down', but was ignored by deputies and medical staff. My calls to the OIG resulted in nothing as well to my knowledge because I never got an official response. They finally took me to the dentist who gave me pain pills and mouth wash. Then on 12/21/23 I got my grievance back and when I asked where my level 1 appeal form was the nurse said I didn't get one because they have a new system now (which I see is much more efficient now) so I would have to file a new grievance. But the 15 day timeliness deadline already ran out. So this is just to put you on notice that I want monetary damages as a tort claim (Gov. 845.6) and/or §1983 with monell liability. I don't have to exhaust my grievances because you thwarted my efforts. I want \$50,000. CV in Ct.

CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES TO PERSON OR PROPERTY

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Read claim thoroughly.
2. Fill out claim as indicated; attach additional information if necessary.
3. Please use one claim form for each claimant.
4. Return this original signed claim and any attachments supporting your claim. This form must be signed.

DELIVER OR U.S. MAIL TO:

EXECUTIVE OFFICER, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, ATTENTION: CLAIMS
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 383,
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
(213) 974-1440

TIME STAMP
OFFICE USE ONLYBOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
FILED

2024 APR 22 A 8:18

1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. LAST NAME FIRST NAME M.I. Camou Robert A.				10. WHY DO YOU CLAIM COUNTY IS RESPONSIBLE? Cal. Gov. Code 9815.6.			
2. ADDRESS OF CLAIMANT 441 Bauchet St.							
CITY		STATE		ZIP CODE			
Los Angeles		CA		90086-0164			
HOME PHONE		ALTERNATE PHONE					
N/A		N/A					
3. CLAIMANT'S BIRTHDATE:				4. CLAIMANT'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER			
10/01/1991							
5. ADDRESS TO WHICH CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE SENT							
815 South Central Ave., Ste. #20							
STREET		CITY		STATE		ZIP CODE	
Glendale		CA		91204			
6. DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT				11. NAMES OF ANY COUNTY EMPLOYEES (AND THEIR DEPARTMENT(S) INVOLVED IN INJURY OR DAMAGE (IF APPLICABLE):			
7/2/23 1pm - 8/25/23 5pm etc.							
7. WHERE DID DAMAGE OR INJURY OCCUR?							
L.A. County Men's Central Jail							
STREET		CITY		STATE		ZIP CODE	
441 Bauchet St.		Los Angeles		CA		90086-0164	
8. DESCRIBE IN DETAIL HOW DAMAGE OR INJURY OCCURRED AND LIST DAMAGES (attach copies of receipts or repair estimates):							
(See attached "Declaration of Robert Anthony Camou")							
9. WERE POLICE OR PARAMEDICS CALLED? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							
(IF YES) AGENCY'S NAME REPORT #							
CHECK IF LIMITED CIVIL CASE <input type="checkbox"/>							
TOTAL DAMAGES TO DATE				TOTAL ESTIMATED PROSPECTIVE DAMAGES			
\$ 50,000.00				\$ 50,000.00			
12. WITNESS(ES) TO DAMAGES OR INJURY: LIST ALL PERSONS AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS KNOWN TO HAVE INFORMATION:							
NAME		PHONE					
Harry Mack Wallace		n/a					
ADDRESS							
441 Bauchet St., Los Angeles, CA 90086							
NAME		PHONE					
13. IF PHYSICIAN(S) WERE VISITED DUE TO INJURY, PROVIDE NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, AND DATE OF FIRST VISIT FOR EACH:							
DATE OF FIRST VISIT		PHYSICIAN'S NAME		PHONE			
11/03/23		Unknown		Unknown			
STREET		CITY		STATE		ZIP CODE	
441 Bauchet St.		Los Angeles		CA		90086	
DATE OF FIRST VISIT		PHYSICIAN'S NAME		PHONE			
STREET		CITY		STATE		ZIP CODE	

THIS CLAIM MUST BE SIGNED

NOTE: PRESENTATION OF A FALSE CLAIM IS A FELONY (PENAL CODE SECTION 72)

CLAIMS FOR DEATH, INJURY TO PERSON OR TO PERSONAL PROPERTY MUST BE FILED NOT LATER THAN 6 MONTHS AFTER THE OCCURRENCE. (GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 911.2)

ALL OTHER CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES MUST BE FILED NOT LATER THAN ONE YEAR AFTER THE OCCURRENCE. (GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 911.2)

14. PRINT OR TYPE NAME:	DATE	15. SIGNATURE OF CLAIMANT OR PERSON GIVING RELATIONSHIP TO CLAIMANT	DATE
Robert Anthony Camou		Robert Anthony Camou	



Sedgwick
PL-COLA Program
Post Office Box 8397
Long Beach, California 90808

May 8, 2024

Robert A. Camou
815 S. Central Avenue
Suite 20
Glendale, CA 91204

Claimant(s) : Robert A. Camou
Claim Filed : 04/16/2024
Sedgwick File No. : 6769 County File No.: 24-4423293 BOS No: 24-1801

Dear Mr. Camou:

We are the administrators for the Hospital Professional Liability Claims Program for the County of Los Angeles. The claim referred to above, which you presented to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, has been referred to us.

The claim referred to above is being returned because it was not presented within six months after the event or occurrence as required by law. See sections 901 and 911.2 of the Government Code. Because the claim was not presented within the time allowed by law, no action was taken on the claim.

WARNING

Government Code section 911.3 provides that when a claim is denied because it was not presented within the time allowed by law, notice to the claimant shall so state and further give notice in substantially the following form:

"Your only recourse at this time is to apply without delay to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for leave to present a late claim. See Sections 911.4 to 912.2, inclusive, and Section 946.6 of the Government Code. Under some circumstances, leave to present a late claim will be granted. See section 911.5 of the Government Code.

"You may seek the advice of an attorney of your choice in connection with this matter. If you desire to consult an attorney, you should do so immediately."

If you dispute the County's conclusion that your claim was untimely, the following warning may be applicable.

WARNING

"Subject to certain exceptions, you have only six (6) months from the date this notice was personally delivered or deposited into the mail to file a court action on this claim. See Government Code Section 945.6.

"You may seek the advice of an attorney of your choice in connection with this matter. If you desire to consult an attorney, you should do so immediately."

(Exh. F)

Statement of The Case

1
2 7/5/23 - Emergency grievance (form SH-T-420) filed with
3 the Los Angeles County Jail complaining of constant pain
4 from a tooth ache beginning on 7/2/23. (See exhibit.) Months
5 went by and I didn't receive a response from the jail
6 about this grievance which was supposed to be processed
7 within 15 days per jail policy at the time.

8
9 8/25/23 - Emergency grievance (form SH-T-420) filed with
10 the Los Angeles County Jail complaining of constant pain from
11 the same tooth ache as before. (See exhibit.) Months
12 went by and I didn't receive a response from the jail
13 about this grievance which was supposed to be processed
14 within 15 days per jail policy at the time.

15
16 12/21/23 - 7/5/23 emergency grievance returned by medical
17 staff. No level 1 appeal form was provided to allow
18 administrative remedies to be exhausted.

19
20 12/28/23 - 8/25/23 emergency grievance returned by medical
21 staff. No level 1 appeal form was provided to allow
22 administrative remedies to be exhausted.

23
24 (Based on the foregoing facts, administrative remedies
25 need not be exhausted for the reason that efforts were
26 thwarted by the jail, rendering the grievance process
27 unavailable. (Foster v. Sexton (2021) 61 Cal App 5th 998, 1007, citing
28 Ross v. Blake (2016) 578 U.S. 632, 640.))

1 2/6/24 - Non-emergency grievance (form SH-J-420) filed with
2 the Los Angeles County Jail serving as notice of intent to sue.
3 (Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 384.) (See exh. C.)

4
5 3/11/24 - Los Angeles Sheriff's Department personnel spoke with
6 me about my 2/6/24 grievance and took a detailed statement
7 from me regarding it which was recorded on handheld video
8 camera. I was not given a response because the sergeant
9 said he had to investigate my grievance. I never heard
10 back from him.

11
12 4/5/24 - 2/6/24 grievance returned by medical staff. No
13 level 1 appeal form was provided so all administrative
14 remedies to me exhausted.

15
16 4/22/24 - Claims for Damages To Person or Property form
17 filed with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. (See
18 exh. D.)

19
20 5/8/24 - The administrators for the Hospital Professional Liability
21 Claims Program for the County of Los Angeles returned the
22 claim filed 4/22/24. (See exh. E.)

23
24 (51983 lawsuits do not require exhaustion pursuant to the
25 Government Claims Act. (Garcia v. California Unified Sch.
26 Dist. (1985) 173 Cal App 3d 701, 709.))

Verification

I, Robert Anthony Canou, am the author of this statement of the case and know its contents. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein except as to the matters which are stated on information and belief which I believe are true. I declare that the foregoing is true and correct under penalty of perjury pursuant to the law of the state of California. This verification is executed on the 1st day of July, 2024 in Los Angeles, CA.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Anthony Canou
ROBERT ANTHONY CANOU
Declarant

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address): Robert Anthony Camou (Bkg. No. 5691867) 441 Bauchet St. Los Angeles, CA 90086-0164		FOR COURT USE ONLY MC-030
TELEPHONE NO.: (213)218-6050 FAX NO. (Optional): n/a E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional): n/a ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Robert Anthony Camou, In Propria Persona		
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF Los Angeles STREET ADDRESS: 111 N. Hill St., Room 118, MAILING ADDRESS: " CITY AND ZIP CODE: Los Angeles, CA 90012 BRANCH NAME: Stanley Mosk Courthouse		
PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: Robert Anthony Camou DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT:		
DECLARATION		CASE NUMBER:

I, the undersigned, declare as follows:

I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this declaration.

I am an inmate in L.A. County Men's Central Jail, housed in the 3700 module, cell D-23 next to Robert Camou who is in cell D-22.

During the months of July and August, 2023 Robert complained of pain in his tooth; I could hear in his voice that his tooth ache was really bothering him. He showed me emergency grievances he was about to submit and asked me to proofread them for him. No sergeant ever came to speak with him about them. I also personally witnessed Robert attempt to go 'man down' in his cell at least three times. Each time he would tell the deputies doing their walks down our tier that he was in such pain that he needed to go man down to get immediate medical attention. None helped him. I only remember one out of all of them even stopping to talk to him about it - that guy just shot him down, telling us that a toothache is not a valid reason to go man down according to LASD jail policy and the way things go in the county jail. Robert told me that the hole in his tooth hurt when food got in it, so after repeatedly hearing him in pain I came up with the idea to give him some of the dental wax I get for my braces, to plug up the hole in his tooth when he ate. He didn't complain of pain so frequently after that, but I could tell it didn't fully solve his problem.

The medical and dental care is extremely bad in Men's Central Jail.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: **March 15, 2024**

Harry Mack Wallace
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

Harry Mack Wallace
(SIGNATURE OF DECLARANT)

☐ Attorney for ☐ Plaintiff ☐ Petitioner ☐ Defendant
☐ Respondent ☒ Other (Specify): **Witness For Petitioner**

[Handwritten signature]

Camou

Robert

7/6/23

5691867

3700 D-22

10/1/91

Months Ago

I need immediate medical / dental care. I am in constant pain because my filling fell out exposing the nerve. I can't eat or drink anything without extreme pain throughout my whole jaw on the left side into my tongue and neck. I think I need my upper left back molar (1st back from wisdom tooth) removed - or what's left of it.

I complained of this when it first started months ago, but nothing was done to help me. 1/2 of the tooth fell out / chipped away alleviating some of the pain, but this is ridiculous I need medical care.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CORRECTIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

HEALTH SERVICES REQUEST (HSR) FORM (REV. 8.2020)

HSR RECEIVED DATE/TIME

MUST STAMP

IF YOU ARE HAVING AN EMERGENCY DO NOT USE THIS FORM BUT IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE NEAREST STAFF FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

PATIENT INFORMATION

Last Name:		First Name:		Today's Date:	
Booking Number:		Housing Location:		Date of Birth:	

PLEASE TELL US ABOUT THE HEALTH SERVICE/S YOU ARE REQUESTING

Medical Care

Check Box

☐

Date problem started: _____

I have the following request:

Dental Care

Check Box

☐

(Cleanings are scheduled after one year of incarceration)

Mental Health

Check Box

☐

-----DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE -- CHS STAFF USE ONLY-----

(Medical ☐ Routine ☐ Urgent) (Dental ☐ Routine ☐ Urgent) (Mental Health ☐ Routine ☐ Urgent)

Triaged by:	Emp #:	Title:	
Reviewed/Assessed by:	Emp #:	Title:	Date:

HSR TRIAGED DATE/TIME

MUST STAMP

Ed. I

~~SECRET~~

Robert Anthony Canon (Bkg. No. 9186)
 141 Baughet St.
 Los Angeles, CA 90086-0164



LOS ANGELES CA 900

JUL 17 2024 PM 12:16

Correspondence

United States District Court

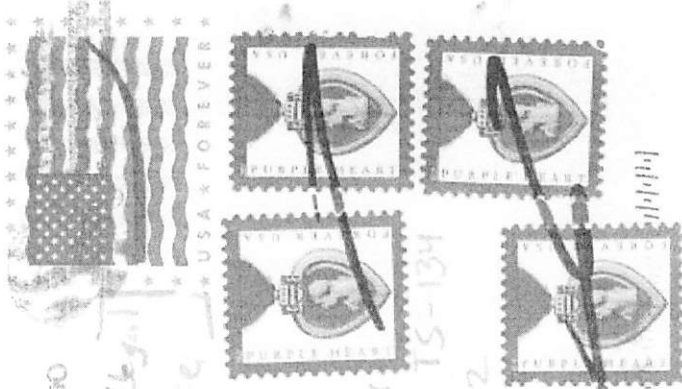
Central District of California

255 East Temple Street, Suite 15-134

Los Angeles, California 90012

ATTENTION: PRO SE CLERK

90012-333432



USPS 2019

LCFZ
7-01-24



THIS ENVELOPE IS REDUCIBLE AND PLEASE RECYCLE IT WITH OTHER POST CONSUMER CONTENT

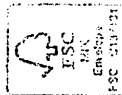


EXHIBIT 3



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Men's Central Jail

Men's Central Jail is a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department county jail for men in Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, United States. Built in 1963, it is one of the oldest county jails in California. The Men's Central Jail is located at 441 Bauchet St., Los Angeles 90012. The Men's Central Jail houses men who are awaiting trial or who have been convicted of crimes.

The Men's Central Jail is considered one of the largest jails in the world.^{[2][3][4][5][1][6]} In May 2013, along with the adjacent Twin Towers Correctional Facility, Men's Central Jail was ranked as one of the ten worst prisons in the United States, based on reporting in *Mother Jones* magazine.^[7]

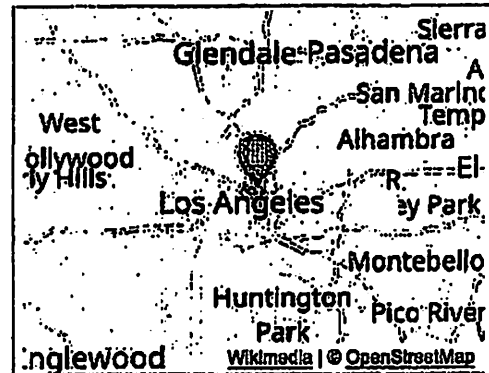
On July 7, 2020, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted 4–0 to pursue a plan to close the Men's Central Jail within 12 months.^[8] In voting to eventually close the 57-year-old facility, county supervisors said they wanted to focus on community-based programs to treat mental health challenges of those entering and exiting the jail system administered by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The vote came amid deliberate inmate reductions during outbreaks of COVID-19 and the Black Lives Matter movement protests over police violence and the murder of George Floyd.^[9]

Construction and population

The construction of the Men's Central Jail was finished in 1963. The original building was designed to house 3,323 inmates.^[10] In 1976, an addition was added to the structure at the cost of \$35 million,^[11] and by December 1990, inmate capacity was 5,276.^[12]

Men's Central Jail has severe overcrowding, leading to problems such as inmates lacking shower facilities, very short recreation times out of their cells, wearing dirty clothes for up to a week, and inmates sleeping on floors for extended periods of time.^{[13][14][15]} In March 1997, the inmate

Men's Central Jail (MCJ)



Location	<u>Los Angeles, California</u>
Coordinates	<u>34.0590°N 118.2321°W</u>
Status	Operational
Security class	Minimum–Maximum
Capacity	5,276
Population	4,300 ^[1]
Opened	1963
Managed by	<u>Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department</u>
Website	<u>website (https://locator.lacounty.gov/lac/Location/3039766/los-angeles-county-sheriff-mens-central-jail)</u>

population was about 13,000,^[16] and saw similarly high numbers by June 2015, where the inmate population was about 17,000^[1] and increased to 19,000 by August, where the legal limits on the jail population were only for 15,000 inmates.^[14]

Notable inmates

- Chris Brown, recording artist^[17]
- Suge Knight^[18]
- Todd Bridges, actor, *Diff'rent Strokes*^[19]
- Drakeo the Ruler, rapper^[20]
- Sean Penn, actor^[21]
- Richard Goldberg, sex offender^[22]
- Kelsey Grammer, actor^{[21][23]}
- Richard Pryor, comedian^[21]
- Tommy Lee, Mötley Crüe's drummer^[21]
- Scott Weiland^[21]
- Erik Menéndez^[23]
- Richard Ramirez^[21]
- O. J. Simpson^{[24][21]}
- Shorty Rossi, reality TV personality^[25]
- YG (rapper)^[26]
- Ron Jeremy, pornographic actor^[27]
- Harvey Weinstein, former film producer^[28]
- Edward Furlong, actor^[29]
- Danny Masterson, former actor^[30]

Services

Men's Central Jail provides some services to its inmates. Inmates can attend self-help classes on domestic violence, alcohol abuse, and substance abuse. Religious services are provided to inmates in the wake of several ACLU lawsuits.^{[31][32]} As of 2004, selected inmates can earn a GED while incarcerated.^[33]

Violence and lawsuits

The ACLU has sued Men's Central Jail for major civil rights violations.^{[34][35][36][37][38]} The United States Department of Justice has also sued the Men's Central Jail.^{[39][40][41][42]}

In 2013, federal prosecutors charged 18 Sheriff's Deputies with excessive use of force.^{[43][44][45][46]} In June 2015, Los Angeles Sheriff's Deputies were found guilty of beating a handcuffed man at the Men's Central Jail.^{[47][48][49][50]}

See also

- Rikers Island (New York City)
- Cook County Jail (Chicago)
- Harris County, Texas jails (Houston)

References

1. Sewell, Abby (9 June 2015). "County supervisors vote to reconsider size of new Men's Central Jail" (<https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-county-jail-plan-20150609-story.html>). *Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved 24 August 2015.
2. Medina, Jennifer (28 September 2011). "Report Details Wide Abuse in Los Angeles Jail System" (<https://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/28/us/aclu-suit-details-wide-abuse-in-los-angeles-jail-system.html>). *The New York Times*. Retrieved 4 August 2015.
3. Don Thompson, Associated Press (2 February 2015). "Infographic: County jail populations across California dip after Prop 47 - 89.3 KPCC" (<http://www.scpr.org/news/2015/02/02/49608/county-jail-populations-across-california-dip-after/>). *Southern California Public Radio*. Retrieved 4 August 2015.
4. Ucar, Ani (18 November 2014). "In the Gay Wing of L.A. Men's Central Jail, It's Not Shanks and Muggings But Hand-Sewn Gowns and Tears" (<https://www.laweekly.com/in-the-gay-wing-of-l-a-mens-central-jail-its-not-shanks-and-muggings-but-hand-sewn-gowns-and-tears/>). *LA Weekly*. Retrieved 4 August 2015.
5. "Cell breakouts, attacks 'easy' in outdated Men's Central Jail" (<http://abc7.com/archive/9453411/>). *ABC7 Los Angeles*. Retrieved 4 August 2015.
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External links

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EXHIBIT 4

Los Angeles Times

CALIFORNIA

Oversight inspectors accuse Sheriff's Department of retaliation after reports on jail fires



In the decades since the L.A. County Men's Central Jail opened, inmates have regularly set fires for a variety of reasons.
(Irfan Khan / Los Angeles Times)

By Keri Blakinger
Staff Writer

MAY 2, 2024 3 AM PT

Oversight commissioners have repeatedly accused the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department of retaliating against inmates at Men's Central Jail after inspectors called

attention to the ongoing problem of fires burning unchecked inside the decrepit downtown lockup.

For years, inmates have been using batteries, razors, toilet paper and other items to set blazes when they want to cook food or heat water. But last summer, oversight inspectors — alarmed by three particularly large fires they'd witnessed — drew attention to the issue in commission reports and public meetings.

Afterward, a Times investigation found the problem stretched back several decades and was possible in part because the inmate housing areas in the aging facility have no sprinklers to douse blazes or blaring smoke detectors to prompt jailers to respond.

Then, in a move Sybil Brand Commission members Eric Miller and Mary Veral told The Times last month was “retaliatory,” jail officials confiscated batteries that high-security inmates in isolation used to listen to their radios.

Inmates responded with a hunger strike that department officials said has since ended. The fires, however, have not.



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In Men's Central Jail, fires are common, smoke alarms are not: Smells 'like a campfire'

Sept. 27, 2023

“It still smelled like fires, but they’re not doing anything about them — they’re just taking away the batteries,” Veral told The Times after a visit to the jail this week. “I’m pretty sure you can light fires other ways.”

The Sheriff's Department did not deny the accusations of retaliation but told The Times that the battery-powered radios had only been available as part of a pilot program. The department did not explain how fires were set in the years before the pilot program

#121
made battery-powered radios available to inmates. Officials are now exploring radio alternatives that do not require batteries, the department said.

“The safety of the inmates in our custody is our highest priority,” the department said in a statement. “Regular searches are conducted in all inmate housing areas in an attempt to locate any outstanding batteries or other ignition sources.”

Though the recent concerns about fires have brought the issue to the fore, blazes have been a problem in Los Angeles County lockups for more than a century. In 1921, the former county jail descended into an 18-hour riot after one man started a fire to heat his coffee and jailers responded by placing him in solitary confinement. That unrest helped prompt the construction of another jail; it was eventually condemned in part because the shortage of emergency exits made it a firetrap.

When Men’s Central Jail opened in 1963, building codes still did not require automatic sprinklers or smoke detectors in any of the housing areas. Instead, the facility relied on a manually triggered alarm system, trusting the jail staff to spot fires and alert people. Though there have been some upgrades, jail officials previously told The Times that is largely how the system still works today.

In the decades since Men’s Central Jail opened, inmates have regularly set fires for a variety of reasons. Several former inmates have told The Times that people use fires to cook their food, though sometimes they also use them to heat their water, stay warm or smoke cigarettes and drugs.

During an inspection by members of the Sybil Brand Commission in June, Veral said she spotted three large blazes on the second floor of the downtown facility. When she alerted jailers to the problem, Veral said, they shrugged and told her the inmates were cooking their canteen food and there wasn’t much the guards could do about it.

Some lockups facing similar fire problems elsewhere have tried to tackle the issue by getting money for smoke detectors and more robust fire alarm systems. In Texas, a 2020 investigation by the Marshall Project, a nonprofit news site, found that the prison system had been violating state fire safety regulations for more than a decade and that men incarcerated there were regularly starting blazes to attract the attention of guards who they said ignored their needs.

After that reporting, the prison system more than tripled its spending on fire alarms. Before those installations were completed, further reporting found that several prisoners died in cell fires. This week, a prison spokeswoman confirmed that the state has again bumped up its fire safety spending to more than \$13 million in 2024. She also confirmed to The Times that inmates in Texas are still allowed to have radios.

Yet Los Angeles has handled its fire hazards differently, as oversight inspectors detailed in a report last month.

“In June 2023 SBC commissioners witnessed fires in cells and brought the issue to the attention of [the L.A. County Sheriff’s Department] in hopes they would take steps to ensure the safety of people incarcerated and working inside of Men’s Central Jail,” the report said. “LASD has not done anything to address the issue except to take away batteries from everyone incarcerated in the jail except a few people.”

For the men living in isolation on the third floor — which is not the same floor where commissioners reported fires in June — the report said the radios “are one of the few things they can purchase to help with their mental health by providing music and entertainment while they are confined in their cell.”

The report went on to question why department officials thought “prohibiting the purchase of batteries was the only possible response to the issue of fires,” instead suggesting that officials consider more frequent inspections to determine the source of the fires.

At a public meeting last month, Miller described the move as “retaliation by the Sheriff’s Department who, instead of ensuring that [inmates] get hot meals, have taken away batteries.”

In responses to questions from The Times, the Sheriff’s Department said its decision to take away batteries stemmed from the outcome of arson investigations that determined batteries had been the ignition point for recent fires on the third floor and elsewhere in the jail.

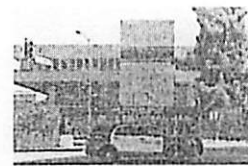
Officials also said the pilot program to allow inmates radio access — something that has been common in jails and prisons across the country for decades — started in 2017 and only expanded to the third floor this year.

The program was determined “not to be successful,” in part because the “antiquated and unique physical layout” of Men’s Central Jail “created challenges,” the department said. “Nonetheless, these factors continue to be evaluated in our efforts to identify opportunities to expand services to our inmate population, in the safest manner possible.”

More to Read

‘Pendulum has swung’: Supervisors signal shift on Men’s Central Jail closure plan

Aug. 5, 2024



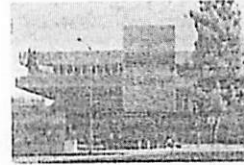
California’s inmate firefighter crews are dwindling just as the state starts to burn

July 8, 2024



Inmate hung a noose. Jailers too busy watching 'explicit video' to intervene, inspectors say

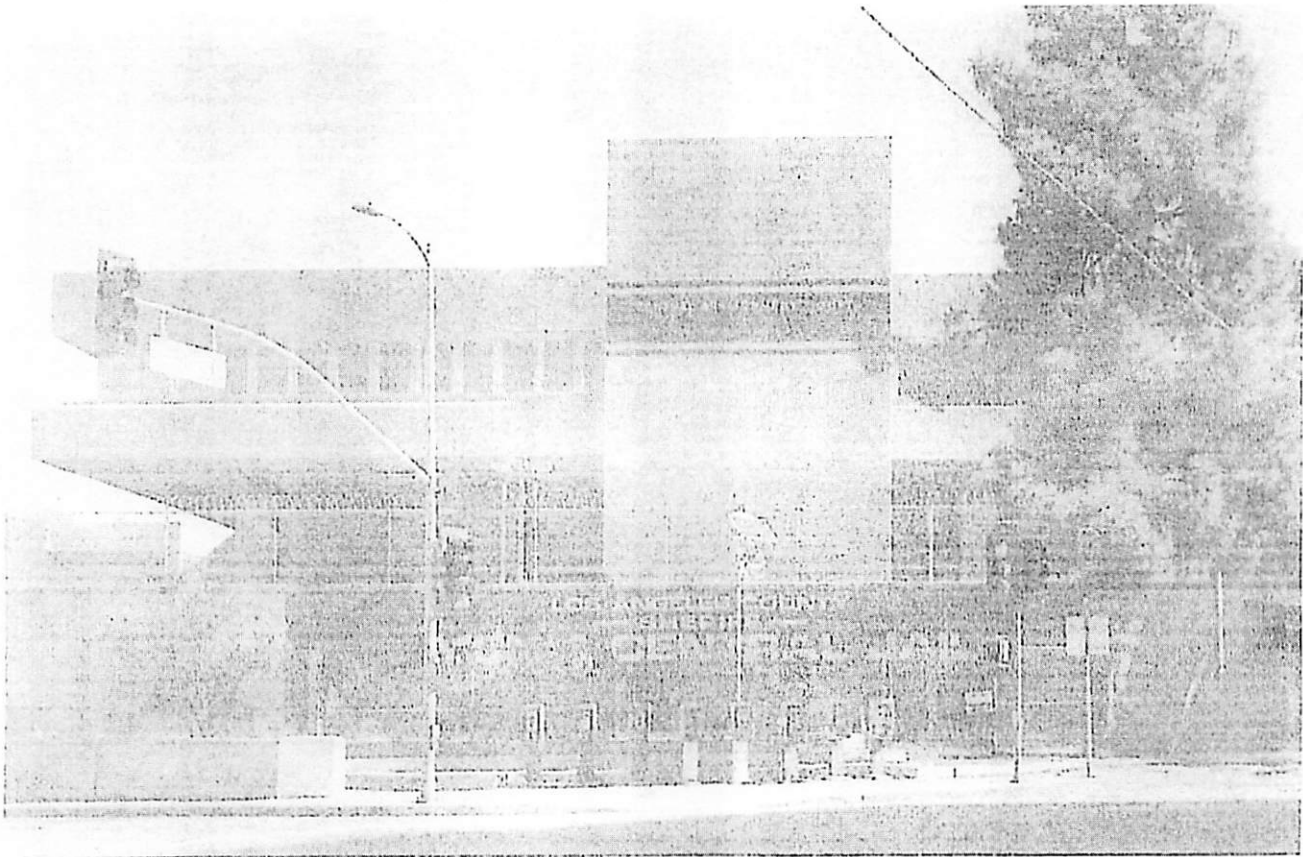
June 5, 2024



Keri Blakinger

Keri Blakinger covers the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Before joining the Los Angeles Times in 2023, she spent nearly seven years in Texas, first covering criminal justice for the Houston Chronicle and then covering prisons for the Marshall Project. Blakinger was a 2024 Pulitzer Prize finalist in feature writing for her insightful, humane portrait, reported with great difficulty, of men on Death Row in Texas who play clandestine games of "Dungeons & Dragons," countering their extreme isolation with elaborate fantasy. Her work has appeared everywhere from the BBC to the New York Daily News, from Vice to the Washington Post Magazine, where her 2019 reporting on women in jail helped earn a National Magazine Award. She is the author of "Corrections in Ink," a 2022 memoir about her time in prison.

Inmate hung a noose. Jailers too busy watching 'explicit video' to intervene, inspectors say



Inspectors at Men's Central Jail, shown in 2022, documented mold, mildew and inadequate food and water last month. They also found bugs coming out of the sinks, along with "small black worms." (Irfan Khan / Los Angeles Times)

By Keri Blakinger
Staff Writer

June 12, 2024 3:00 PM PT

When a pair of oversight inspectors walked up to one of the deputies' stations inside Men's Central Jail last month, they were already exasperated. During their visit to the

high-security unit, the inspectors later wrote in their report, they'd been concerned to see a noose in one of the cells.

They were even more concerned when they realized a jailer had walked by for a safety check and ignored it.

The first time an inspector approached the deputies to tell them about it, he said, the eight jailers sitting in front of a television brushed him off. When he returned half an hour later with another inspector, he realized why: The deputies were busy watching a "sexually explicit" video, according to an oversight report published this month.

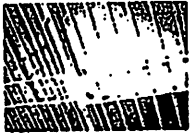
"The degree of callousness they were exhibiting was just horrific," said Eric Miller, one of the two Sybil Brand Commission inspectors who wrote the report. "What's the purpose of the security check if you're not actually taking any action?"

It was only after inspectors asked several deputies to intervene that one jailer finally tore down the noose before the inmate harmed himself, the report said.

To Haley Broder, the inspector who accompanied Miller that day, the failure to act seemed to be representative of larger problems she saw inside the decades-old facility.

"There was just continuous neglect and bad conditions," Broder told The Times this week. "People were saying they were hungry. We saw people with giant open wounds. The trash was just everywhere — there's so much trash. It smells. There are fires. And it seems in general there is just a genuine lack of interest in changing that situation."

In an emailed statement, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said it has addressed several of the issues identified in the June report. Officials did not say whether the deputies caught watching the video have been reassigned but told The Times there is now an investigation underway.



CALIFORNIA

6 inmates, 2 jailers hospitalized after 'toxic substance' exposure at women's jail in Lynwood

June 5, 2024

"The department investigates all allegations of misconduct and expects its personnel to perform its responsibilities in a professional manner in accordance with department policy," the statement said. "When violations of policy and procedures are discovered, personnel are held accountable."

The latest problems in the jail came to light after Miller and Broder visited for a surprise inspection in mid-May. When they entered the first-floor high-security unit, the inspectors stopped to talk to a man who'd been let out of his cell to shower. As they talked, Miller said, they watched a deputy walk down the row to look inside each cell for a safety check. A few minutes later, Broder said, she peeked into the open cell of the man who'd come out to shower.

That's when she spotted the noose.

"Though unlikely to support the incarcerated person's weight, the noose was obvious to anyone looking into the cell," she and Miller wrote in their report.

While Miller went to find a deputy, Broder — a trained social worker — stayed behind to talk to the apparently suicidal man in the shower, who had by then started banging his head against the wall.

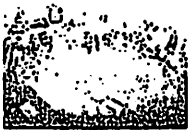
At first, Miller said, he went to the deputies' station, where he found eight jailers seated in front of a television.

"The deputies said they would check on the cell later," the inspection report said, "but remained seated watching the video on the television."

Eventually, Miller said, he tracked down the first deputy he'd spotted doing rounds, and convinced him to remove the noose.

After the commissioners finished inspecting the rest of the unit, they returned to discover the eight deputies were still sitting at their station watching a "sexually explicit video" on their television. When Miller walked in, he said, they didn't move to turn it off.

"To me it looked like the beginning of an OnlyFans video or something," Miller said. "It was women in underwear, and it certainly didn't look like they were going to put more clothes on. It looked like they were going to take them off."



CALIFORNIA

Juvenile hall fight vidcos raise question: Can L.A. County probation reports be trusted?

May 30, 2024

Officials did not respond to a question from The Times about what exactly the deputies were watching.

It was only when Broder walked in a few seconds after Miller that the deputies "hurriedly removed the video from the screen," the report said.

The report did not name the deputies involved.

The jails have long struggled to provide constitutionally adequate care and living conditions. The county is currently subject to four court-enforced settlement agreements stemming from federal lawsuits over poor treatment of inmates and bad living conditions.

The newest of those settlements dates back to 2015 when — after a rise in jail suicides — the U.S. Department of Justice took legal action against the county for failing to provide adequate treatment for severely mentally ill inmates. The oldest of the cases is focused on living conditions and dates back to the 1970s, but it still remains open because the Sheriff's Department has never fully complied with the terms of the settlement.

"Men's Central Jail is a rolling settlement agreement violation," Miller said. "And no one is willing to take responsibility."

Melissa Camacho concurred. She's an American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California senior staff attorney representing inmates in two of the ongoing federal lawsuits.

"Issues with safety checks and not notifying anyone that they saw a noose during a safety check have to be clear violations of the consent decree in the DOJ case," she said. "That case is focused on reducing the numbers of deaths by suicide, so to walk by a noose is beyond the pale."

On that same floor of the jail, inspectors spotted several other problems. Some cells had broken toilets or leaking pipes, and the housing areas were humid from the constant drip of leaking showers, the report said. Inmates complained of rats and cockroaches in their cells and food, and inspectors said they saw mildew on ceilings, showers and in cells.

"There was also a man whose cell was covered in mold and water and he was using his clothes to sop up the water," Broder said. "In that unit they don't have books, they don't have pens. They have absolutely nothing, and it's completely dark."

On the fourth floor of the jail, inspectors wrote that some cells had no cold water, so the inmates had rigged up a system to pass water from cell to cell using strings and plastic bottles. There was a "strong smell of fire burning" and "trash everywhere."

In multiple cells on that floor as well as on the first floor, the mattresses had chunks missing, an issue Camacho found particularly vexing. Over the last 50 years, the jails have repeatedly landed in legal trouble for failing to provide mattresses to all inmates, forcing some to sleep on urine-soaked floors or chained to benches.

"Having mattresses with chunks missing violates an order that has been in place since the 1970s," Camacho said. "It's assumed when the Sheriff's Department is ordered to give everybody a mattress it will be a complete mattress and not a partial mattress."

On the fifth floor, inspectors said, inmates were triple-bunked in a hot cell block where the air conditioners were filled with lint. There were bugs coming out of the sinks, the report said, along with "small black worms."

One person reported that there was "a sick inmate in the bunk above them whose defecation was falling into their bunk." The inmate told inspectors the deputies had ignored their requests to help the sick person.

In several housing areas throughout the jail, inspectors said, inmates complained there wasn't enough food, and the meals they did get were often cold or inedible. In one dorm, a man showed commissioners a carton of fully curdled milk he said he'd received that day. When inspectors talked to medical staff about it, one employee concurred that there "appeared to be insufficient food for the incarcerated people," according to the report.

In its statement, the Sheriff's Department did not address allegations about a lack of food but said that it had already resolved the cold water problem and that officials worked to have such issues "corrected as expeditiously as possible."

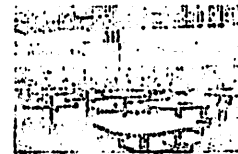
The department said that none of the inspectors reported a sick inmate during their visit, and that jail officials would contact the commission for further details. The

department also said that its own inspection this week did not reveal any black worms, and that the jail maintains a contract with an exterminator.

"The Sheriff's Department often says they don't have enough staff," Camacho said. "What the Sybil Brand Commission tour shows is that it isn't that there isn't enough staff — it's that they don't do their job. And in this case, it's that they were watching porn instead of doing their job."

More to Read

L.A. County deputy arrested for allegedly smuggling heroin into jail, sources say



Oversight inspectors accuse Sheriff's Department of retaliation after reports on jail fires



Why was 2023 such a deadly year in Los Angeles County jails? It depends on whom you ask



Keri Blakinger

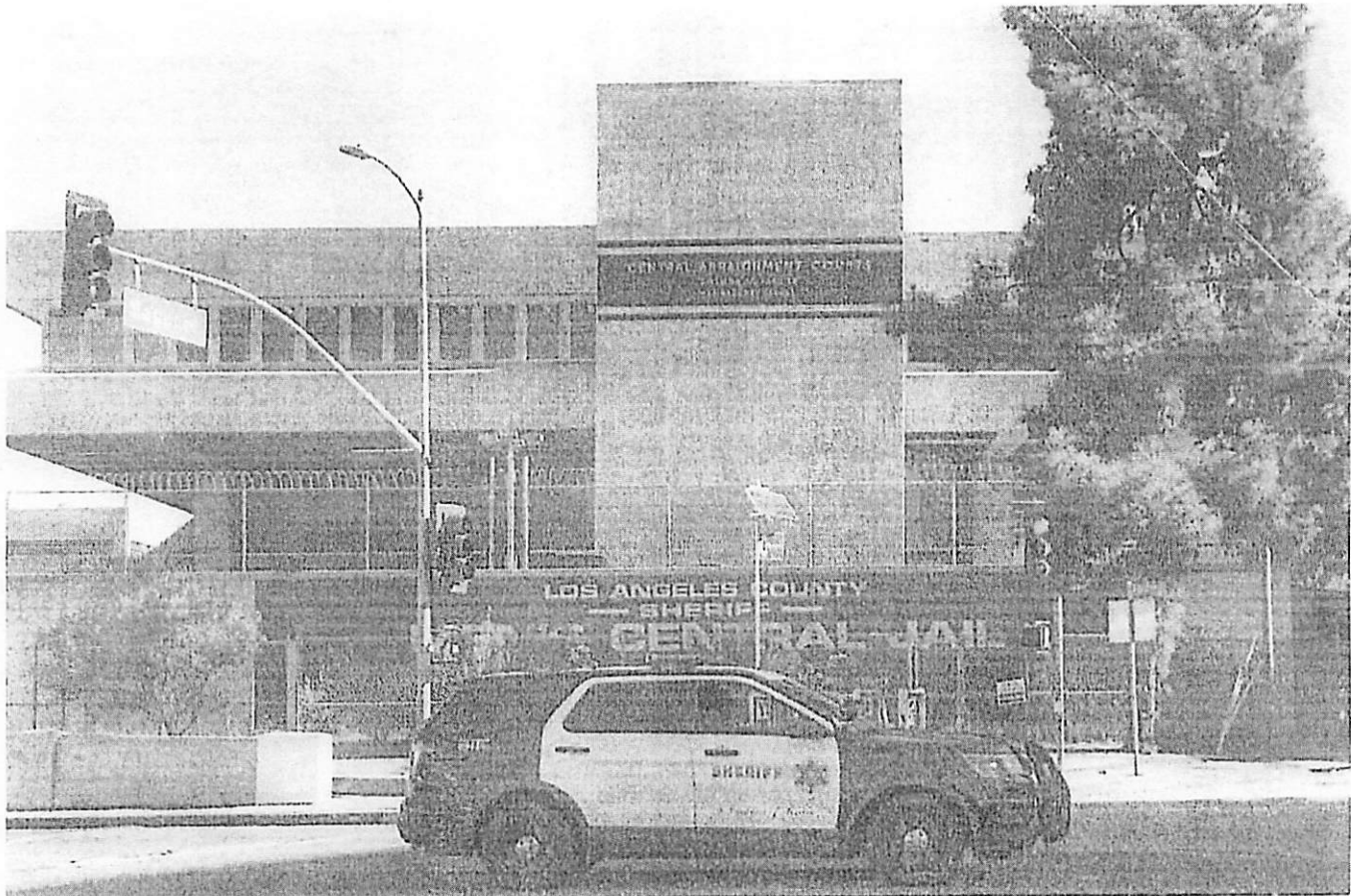
Keri Blakinger covers the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Before joining the Los Angeles Times in 2023, she spent nearly seven years in Texas, first covering criminal justice for the Houston Chronicle and then covering prisons for the Marshall Project. Blakinger was a 2024 Pulitzer Prize finalist in feature writing for her insightful, humane portrait, reported with great difficulty, of men on Death Row in Texas who play clandestine games of "Dungeons & Dragons," countering their

extreme isolation with elaborate fantasy. Her work has appeared everywhere from the BBC to the New York Daily News, from Vice to the Washington Post Magazine, where her 2019 reporting on women in jail helped earn a National Magazine Award. She is the author of "Corrections in Ink," a 2022 memoir about her time in prison.

Los Angeles Times

CALIFORNIA

‘Pendulum has swung’: Supervisors signal shift on Men’s Central Jail closure plan



Built in the early 1960s, the now-decrepit Men's Central Jail has been a vexing issue for the county. (Irfan Khan / Los Angeles Times)

By Keri Blakinger and Rebecca Ellis

AUG. 5, 2024 3 AM PT

In the summer of 2019, justice reformers celebrated because the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors scrapped a controversial \$1.7-billion plan to replace the county's oldest lockup — the dungeon-like Men's Central Jail on Bauchet Street — with a jail-like mental health facility.

Buoyed by a rising tide of prison reforms across the country, county leaders decided to focus instead on decreasing the jail population by creating more alternatives to incarceration. The new goal would be to close Men's Central Jail without building a replacement.

Five years later, there are roughly 5,000 fewer inmates — but Men's Central Jail is still open. And at the state level, the tides are changing, as voters are set to consider increasing the penalties for low-level theft and some drug crimes, both moves that could balloon the jail population.

Amid that backdrop, the board appears to be rethinking its no-new-jails strategy.



CALIFORNIA

Your guide to Proposition 36: Stiffer penalties for some drug and theft crimes

July 10, 2024

"The pendulum has swung," Supervisor Holly Mitchell said at Tuesday's board meeting. "We keep saying: When are you closing Men's Central Jail? I think there needs to be an 'and what are we building or creating for this population that perhaps pretrial, diversion, community settings won't match.'"

It's a question supervisors have been unwilling to entertain for the last five years, arguing they could shrink the jail population to zero without a new facility. But the board publicly changed its tone after Sheriff Robert Luna and his top jail official told them three-quarters of county inmates are facing charges too serious for diversion programs.

"I felt like we finally broke through the discussion of why it's needed and justification as to why it's needed, because numbers don't lie," said Supervisor Kathryn Barger in an interview. "A replacement has to take place."

What the county might replace the jail with — or where it would site a replacement — remains unclear.

To some justice reformers, the recent change of tone comes as a profound disappointment.

Claire Simonich, associate director of the nonprofit Vera California, questioned the department's claim that 75% of people in the jails couldn't be diverted, as well as the notion that a new facility would solve the problems currently plaguing the county's lockups.

"Men's Central Jail is decrepit," she said. "Building another jail won't address many of the problems and concerns that we see at Men's Central Jail — like overdose deaths, inhumane treatment and inadequate mental healthcare."

When Men's Central Jail opened five decades ago, county leaders hoped the new capacity would end overcrowding and, in the process, improve worsening conditions in local lockups. Instead, the facility has given rise to federal lawsuits, aggressive deputy gangs, a sweeping scandal that landed a former sheriff in prison and a persistent string of complaints from inmates, oversight officials and community members.

But county leaders faltered in response. Three years after agreeing the county needed to build a new jail, the board in 2018 approved a \$2.2-billion plan to do that — by tearing down the existing facility and replacing it with a rehabilitation-focused Consolidated Correctional Treatment Facility.



0000000000

L.A. County to relocate some inmates, build jail to treat the mentally ill

Aug. 11, 2015

The following year, the board changed course and instead greenlit a \$1.7-billion project dubbed the Mental Health Treatment Center. Approved in a 3-2 vote, the planned facility would have been overseen primarily by the Department of Health Services instead of the Sheriff's Department, though a limited number of deputies would have provided security.

"It's still a jail," Supervisor Hilda Solis said at the time, opposing the plan. "It's still walls. It's still preventing people from having freedom, the possibility of even rehabilitation."

A few months later, the board scrapped the idea and started over, eventually embracing a "care first, jails last" philosophy paired with the goal of tearing down the decaying jail and not building a replacement. In 2021, the board approved an ambitious plan to decrease the number of people in custody by several thousand so the county could shut down the facility bit by bit before closing it completely.

But the planned closure date — in early 2023 — came and went, and the jail remains open. Last year, the board floated a motion outlining several recommendations to decrease the population but offering no concrete timeline for closure.



CALIFORNIA

D.A. will not charge deputy seen on camera appearing to slam inmate's head into wall

June 8, 2024

Meanwhile, conditions have not improved. The county is still grappling with several longstanding class-action lawsuits alleging abuse, poor conditions and inadequate mental healthcare behind bars. The jail death rate has risen sharply in recent years.

And this year, inspections by the county's Sybil Brand Commission have revealed mold, rats, fires, broken toilets, sink drains filled with "small black worms" and cells covered

in feces. In May, two inspectors found a large group of jailers watching a “sexually explicit” video instead of tending to a seemingly suicidal inmate who’d hung a rudimentary cloth noose in his cell.

The tenor of last week’s board meeting signaled yet another change of direction in the county’s response.

Though the agenda called for a discussion about the deteriorating conditions at Men’s Central Jail, the conversation quickly shifted to plans for the facility’s future.

Luna told supervisors he wasn’t sure the county could ever decrease its incarcerated population enough to close Men’s Central Jail without a replacement, in part because officials estimate so many inmates are facing charges that are too violent or serious for diversion programs. Instead, he suggested building what he called the “Care First Treatment Campus,” which he said wouldn’t necessarily be run by sheriff’s deputies.

Barger, the board’s lone Republican, seized on the suggestion as a path forward that could garner support from her more progressive counterparts.

“Men’s Central Jail needs to be torn down no matter what,” Barger said at the meeting. “The fact that it doesn’t have to be a sheriff-run facility ... maybe you just opened up a new door in terms of finally doing something.”

Solis, historically one of the loudest opponents of a new jail on the board, was adamant that, if another facility was built, it should not be in her area, which she said was already overwhelmed with carceral facilities, including Men’s Central Jail and Twin Towers downtown.

"I don't want to see another jail built, obviously," she said. "But if the board goes that way, it better not be in my district."

Lindsey Horvath, the newest supervisor and one of the most progressive on the board, was skeptical of the concept and told The Times she wasn't "familiar enough" with Luna's vision to support it.

"I don't know of a facility that is run by a sheriff's department that is not considered a jail," she said in an interview.

The shift sparked swift pushback from justice reform advocates, community activists and some jail oversight officials.

"I was totally blindsided by that," said Anthony Arenas, an organizer with Justice LA, which has long opposed building any new jails. "It's just going to be Men's Central Jail under a new name — a 'Care First Treatment Campus' — which is even more disturbing given that this idea of 'care first, jails last' came from the community members who have advocated closing Men's Central Jail with no replacement."

During their Thursday morning meeting, members of the Sybil Brand Commission — a county oversight body that inspects local jails — panned the idea of a "care first" facility, saying "care first" is "not a thing" in the historically troubled culture of Los Angeles jails.

"This is not just a facility issue," commissioner Haley Broder told The Times afterward, highlighting examples of neglect and retaliation by jailers. "This is a culture issue."

And Peter Eliasberg, chief counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, rejected the core claim that started the discussion — the idea that three-quarters of the jail population can't be diverted or released pretrial.

"Nobody should be buying into that as a number that is solidly grounded," he said. The county's Office of Diversion and Reentry has successfully kept thousands of people — including some facing serious charges — out of the jails but has never been adequately ~~able~~, he said.

And a recent UCLA study found that Los Angeles courts are setting bail amounts far higher than the state average. Simply decreasing bail amounts, Eliasberg said, could help lower the jail population.

The assertion that most of the jail can't be diverted is "preposterous," he continued, adding: "If the board is thinking about making policy based on that statement, my father had a phrase he would say — 'You're leaning on a weak reed' — and I think that's entirely appropriate here."

More to Read

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July 9, 2024



Opinion: California's budget deficit will force difficult cuts. This one should be the easiest

April 20, 2024



Editorial: Juvenile probation failures have left L.A.'s troubled kids nowhere to go

April 8, 2024

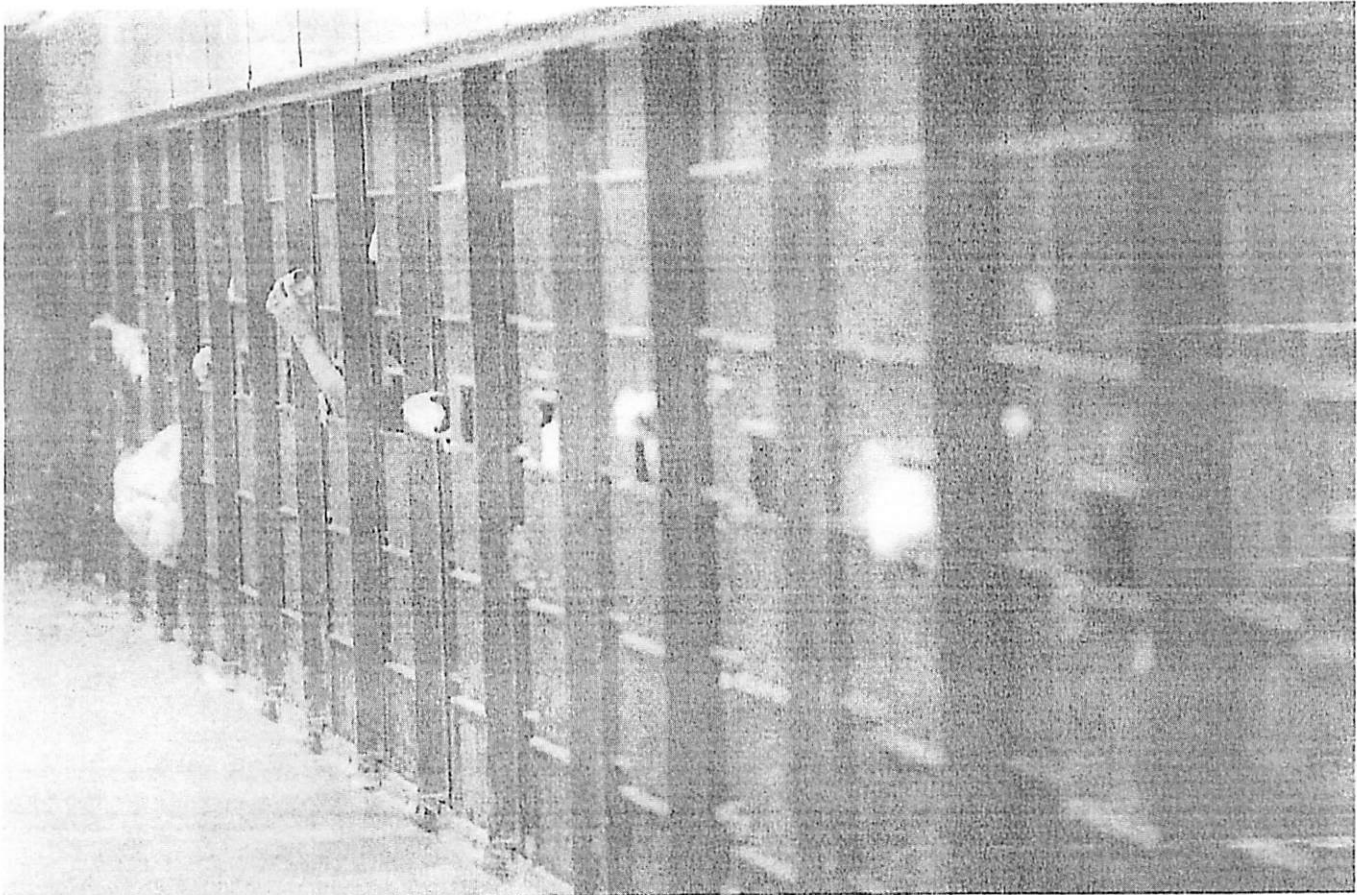


Keri Blakinger

Los Angeles Times

OPINION

Editorial: A shiny new jail in L.A. is a bad idea, no matter what it's called



Men's Central Jail, shown in 2019. Los Angeles County leaders agreed that the jail should be demolished but have not determined how else to care for or supervise thousands of people after their arrests or convictions. (Al Seib / Los Angeles Times)

By The Times Editorial Board

Aug. 16, 2024 5 AM PT

There is no disagreement over the proper fate of Men's Central Jail in downtown Los Angeles. The decrepit facility must be torn down with all deliberate speed — just as soon

as county leaders make alternative arrangements for the thousands of people housed there at any given time.

And there's the rub. What do we do with everybody, especially the enormous percentage of people who landed in jail in part because of psychiatric or drug problems?

For years, the Board of Supervisors clung to the most rote and self-destructive answer: Build another jail, with a new name to imply a new mindset. It was going to be called the San Joaquin Correctional Treatment Facility, then the Mental Health Treatment Campus. The name being bandied about now is the Care First Treatment Campus.



OPINION

Editorial: L.A.'s cruel and deadly jail is still full on shutdown date

March 30, 2023

Yet all those fancy labels are just euphemisms for "jail." They all describe a single large, secure building, located on the footprint of Men's Central Jail, surrounded by other jails, and staffed by sheriff's deputies.

The board hears regular reports to monitor progress on closing the jail but does little to meet the various deadlines it sets, and then misses. During last month's report, Sheriff Robert Luna said that although deputies would be needed at a treatment campus, perhaps their role could be limited. The board was noncommittal, although some supervisors' comments could be interpreted as showing a renewed openness to a bad idea — a replacement jail.



OPINION

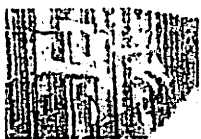
Editorial: Jailed Angelenos die, deputies shrug. Will this daily routine never end?

March 30, 2023

We've been here before. One of those adjacent jails is Twin Towers, which sounds like it ought to be an upscale condo development but is in fact a jail that has been cited and sued almost as often as Men's Central next door. It became the county's 1990s version of a treatment-oriented facility.

As the supervisors finally recognized in 2019, an even newer jail is not the answer, because the problem is not merely a failing old building. The problem is that sheriff's deputies are trained in policing, which is the wrong skill set and wrong approach for rehabilitating people struggling with mental illness and addiction, whether or not those people have been accused of crimes. Mental health professionals have testified repeatedly that law enforcement techniques such as violent cell extractions commonly worsen the patients' condition and undermine treatment.

Recent Los Angeles County history is littered with the evidence that law enforcement is the wrong approach for psychiatric patients. For the first decade and a half of this century, jailers routinely beat and abused inmates whose conditions they could not understand. The Sheriff's Department failed so thoroughly at providing mental and medical care that it had to hand over the responsibility to county health officials — yet deputies still run the facilities and supervise the inmates, and overall care remains abysmal.



Editorial

Editorial: Start the demolition countdown at Men's Central Jail

April 5, 2024

Just in the last year, jailers were caught watching porn on the job instead of monitoring with supervising and assisting. Twenty-one people have died in L.A. County jails this year, 60 since the beginning of last year. Legal settlements that were supposed to improve conditions include one that is nearly half a century old and another that was signed this year, and many others in between.

To be sure, security for many mental patients is needed, particularly in the early stages of treatment. It's in no one's interest to allow the sick to wander off on their own. But locks do not by themselves turn treatment into jail as long as medical standards and practices prevail. Best practices for psychiatric treatment include "step-down beds," with higher acuity patients subject to the most security, proceeding over time to increasing levels of liberty as treatment and the patients' improvement allow.

To enable step-down care, patients should be treated close to their home communities, where most will eventually return. That means treatment should be provided at small facilities distributed around the county, not a single massive building in a jail complex.

OPINION

Editorial: Men's Central Jail should be demolished. But what should replace it?

May 7, 2023

These principles — a network of small locked and unlocked step-down facilities, operated by medical professionals rather than law enforcement, with contract security as needed — have been part of the county's care-first plan for years now.

That plan is stuck in limbo in part because the population of Men's Central Jail remains too high — by about 4,000 people — to close the facility. But the population reduction that supervisors said was necessary to close Men's Central was always meant to come from the entire jail system. The county has already advanced toward that milestone with the help of successful county diversion programs that direct people away from or out of all county jails.



OPINION

Editorial: Unconscionable abuse and shameful inaction at L.A. County jails

May 7, 2023

The Office of Diversion and Reentry, for example, provides community housing and treatment for people deemed incompetent to stand trial who might otherwise sit in Twin Towers in the near-futile hope that their conditions will improve there. That's costly and foolish.

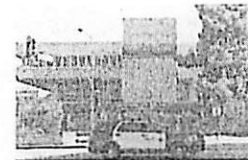
To expand their success, programs such as ODR need more beds in more communities. That's politically challenging for the Board of Supervisors because of the typical resistance from residents to these types of facilities. But the supervisors have moved forward with housing and treatment for homeless people whose profiles are often the same as many ill people currently in jail, except that they have managed to avoid arrest.

They need to keep at it if they are to fulfill their promise to close the dungeon that is Men's Central Jail and finally break the county's cycle of jailing and failing instead of treating and healing.

More to Read

'Pendulum has swung': Supervisors signal shift on Men's Central Jail closure plan

Aug. 5, 2024



Opinion: California's budget deficit will force difficult cuts. This one should be the easiest

Feb. 14, 2024



Editorial: Juvenile probation failures have left L.A.'s troubled kids nowhere to go

Jan. 17, 2024



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Los Angeles Times

CALIFORNIA

Who's in charge of finally closing Men's Central Jail? It's TBD



L.A. County is starting a national search for an executive director to lead a team focused on shutting down Men's Central Jail. (Iran Khan / Los Angeles Times)

By Rebecca Ellis, David Zahniser and Keri Blakinger

Oct 6, 2024 8 AM PT

Good morning, and welcome to L.A. on the Record — our City Hall newsletter. It's Rebecca Ellis, David Zahniser and Keri Blakinger bringing you the latest on all things local government.

Nearly a decade after deciding that Men's Central Jail was too decrepit, L.A. County's top politicians are on the hunt for someone to finally shut it down.

The ~~years-long paralysis~~ around closing the dangerous facility was on full display this week as the Board of Supervisors discussed embarking on a national search for an ~~executive director~~ to lead a team with one objective: closing the downtown L.A. jail, where ~~roughly 4,000 inmates are confined~~.

The update, made during Tuesday's board meeting, was seen by some advocates as part job announcement, part confession. After all this time, it's clear that the person in charge is still TBD.

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"What we're feeling, overall, is frustration," said **Janet Asante** with JusticeLA, a coalition of advocacy groups that has pushed for the jail's closure. "The board was essentially thinking that if they just send a mandate down the pipeline, it would get done. But they weren't watching that happen."

The closure, supervisors concede, has not gone as expected. **Chidinma Ume** with the county's Chief Executive Office said this week that there have been about 60 reports on how to close the jail — and still no concrete timeline for doing so.

"It's a little bit crazy-making," said Supervisor **Lindsey Horvath**, later adding that the county is "truly stuck."

"This is — I hate to say it — it's incremental," said Supervisor **Hilda Solis**, whose district includes the jail.

For years, the dungeon-like facility has been the setting for a series of scandals and federal lawsuits alleging widespread abuse and neglect. Inspections have turned up rats, mold and feces-covered cells, while the death rate inside has sharply risen. A recently resurfaced county report shows the six-decade-old building is a seismic disaster that one expert said could "certainly" kill people in a moderate to major quake.

County officials have waffled for years on closing the jail, unsure of what should replace it. In 2015, the supervisors approved a plan to knock it down and build a modernized lockup with a focus on mental health treatment.

Then, with a tide of prison reforms sweeping the country, supervisors decided in 2019 to shut the jail without building a replacement. Instead, they would divert as many inmates as possible to alternatives such as supportive housing and treatment.

Three years ago, the county created a team to bushwhack through a thicket of bureaucracy to get the jail closed and the inmates diverted. But the team, housed within the county's Justice, Care and Opportunities Department, struggled to get buy-in from other county agencies. The effort faltered.

This spring, supervisors tapped the Chief Executive Office to lead the jail closure program instead. The office has become a landing spot for complex initiatives important

to the board, including programs to curtail homelessness and fight racism.

Chief Executive Officer **Fesia Davenport** told the board Tuesday that before her office took over, “there was no one working exclusively on jail closure.”

Advocates say they have been ringing alarm bells for years.

“I was shocked that the board was shocked,” said **Megan Castillo**, policy and advocacy manager at La Defensa, an organization that advocates for alternatives to incarceration. “Like how do you not know?”

While its population has dwindled, Men’s Central Jail still has too many inmates to render it obsolete.

To close the jail, the county says, it will need to reduce the total number of inmates in the county jail system by 45%, leaving about 7,160. Sheriff **Robert Luna** and his top jail official told the board this summer that the majority face charges too serious for diversion programs — a claim that some attorneys and inmate advocates immediately called into question.

Even so, that’s left the timeline for closing the jail a question mark. The initial deadline was early 2023. Supervisor **Holly Mitchell** says she is constantly asked for an update.

“I’m not going to pick a date out of thin air, arbitrarily,” Mitchell said. “We have to do it well and right.”

With the county just starting its hunt for someone to lead the effort, Supervisor **Janice Hahn** said she worries that things are already “stalling” and “would like a timeline at some point.”

The clock is ticking, advocates say. California voters this November will consider increasing the penalties for low-level theft and some drug crimes, which could balloon the prison population.

County voters will also decide on a ballot measure that could add four more supervisors to the board, threatening to upset the consensus on the issue and return jail closure to square one again.

State of play

— **CHOOSING A TOP COP:** After a months-long search, Mayor **Karen Bass** selected former Los Angeles County Sheriff **Jim McDonnell** as the city's next police chief. His nomination heads to the council for a confirmation vote.

— **REDISTRICTING RERUN?** California Atty. Gen **Rob Bonta** has begun pressing L.A. leaders to sign an agreement that would require them to create new boundaries for the city's 15 council districts by the 2026 primaries. Sources told The Times that Bonta is concerned about Latino voting strength in the San Fernando Valley and the Eastside. Councilmembers have not yet divulged whether they intend to push back.

— **STRIKE AVERTED:** Los Angeles County and Service Employees International Union Local 721, which represents more than 55,000 county workers, announced this week that it has called off a strike that threatened to bring county services to a halt. The union had accused the county of posting inaccurate versions of labor agreements online and improperly using contractors to do union jobs.

— **A PLUM PICK:** Councilmember **Marqueece Harris-Dawson** announced Friday that he has selected Councilmember **John Lee** as the new chair of the powerful Planning and Land Use Management Committee, or PLUM, which reviews major real estate projects. Harris-Dawson, who is stepping off the committee, tapped Councilmember **Kevin de León** to replace him.

CALIFORNIA

How L.A.'s jail system became America's largest

RIOT OF PRISONERS TO HURRY NEW JAIL PLANS
 Rioters forced to believe that...
 Rioters forced to believe that...
 Rioters forced to believe that...

Officers Urge Security Jail
 Sheriff Sees Critical Need for New Unit in Postwar Period
 A maximum security unit should be at first, or at least a new courthouse, on...

Central Jail Conditions Dismay Assemblymen
 Appalled by conditions which they discovered in a tour of the Central Jail at First and Hill Streets, members of an Assembly committee...

Police to Break Ground for New Jail Farm
 Ground will be broken at 10 a.m. Friday for a \$2,000,000 Los Angeles Police Department Rehabilitation Center for prisoners at 27000 Canyon Road, near San...

New Jail to Span Sunset Blvd. Urged
 Ford Calls for Site Downtown on Land Now County-Owned
 Board of Supervisors yesterday...

County Jail's Crowding Reaches All-Time Peak
 Overcrowding in the County Jail reached an all-time peak today, with 2,100 men and 241 women...

Pitchess Warns on Crowded Jail
 Los Angeles County Jail is overcrowded and is a health hazard, County Sheriff...

Conviction in Car Theft
 Robert Wright, 34, was convicted of stealing a 1954 Buick Wildcat...

Site for New Jail Building OK'd by Glendale Planners
 The structure will cost \$10,000,000...

Dungeons of the Dark Ages Displaced in Los Angeles
 The County Jail is a place of dungeons...

WOMEN, TOO—Extra cots were placed in halls outside cells to care for the growing influx of women in the jail.

Los Angeles Times photo illustration

By Keri Blakinger
 Staff Writer

Oct. 9, 2024 3 AM PT

FOR SUBSCRIBERS

When you think of a prison town, you probably think of a place like Huntsville, Texas. Or maybe Forrest City, Ark. Or Susanville, Calif. Even if you don't know them by name, you know the type: places where the population is half-incarcerated and virtually everyone works for or knows someone who works for a prison. In short, you probably do not think of a place like Los Angeles.

But maybe you should.

Technically, it's not a prison town. Though there are a few federal and state prisons for those convicted of serious crimes scattered across the county, the Southland's claim to carceral fame lies more in its jails. On an average day, the county's lockups hold close to 13,000 people. With roughly twice as many imprisoned people as are in New York's far more notorious Rikers Island complex, Los Angeles is home to the largest jail system in the most heavily incarcerated country in the world.

At nearly every moment in its history, Los Angeles has been either expanding an old jail, building a new one or debating whether to. The perpetual refrain of build, overcrowd, repeat hums in the background of the city's history like an aging neon sign.

Right now, that hum is growing a little louder as county leaders once again take up the question of whether to replace Men's Central. The crumbling downtown lockup mostly houses men awaiting trial or convicted of minor offenses; virtually everyone with any say agrees it is overdue for demolition.

"It's so similar to the freeway issue," said William Deverell, director of the Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West and a professor of history at USC. "If we have a freeway that's too crowded, we say, 'Well, let's build another one.' How do we alleviate the problems in one prison? Well, we build another one."

The region's first jail was built on the edge of what is now downtown Los Angeles in 1786, when California was claimed by the Spanish Empire. At the time, it was used as a guard house for Spanish soldiers and known as the Cuartel Viejo.

But not long after it began to house inmates, the place became overcrowded — or rather it had a “bounteous patronage,” as The Times described it. Once it became too dilapidated to use, local leaders turned a cleric's house into a make-do jail.

So in 1841 — still nearly a decade before California became a state — Los Angeles built what was technically at least its third jail, though probably the first one constructed for that purpose. But the simple structure at the corner of New High and Temple streets wasn't intended for everyone. The white inmates stayed indoors. Their Native and Mexican counterparts were chained to logs outside.

The next jail was a one-story adobe structure on the corner of Spring and Franklin streets. It opened in 1853, during a period when Los Angeles — according to The Times — was said to be the “toughest town of the entire nation.” The growing city saw so many murders that the newspapers covered them like weather reports. One cheekily described the evening as a “brisk night for killing” after four men were shot to death in a town of just 3,500.

With the tougher town came a fuller jail, and in 1881 the city opened a lockup on West 2nd Street, with room for about 40 prisoners. The county followed suit and five years later opened the “modern” New High Street Jail, a three-story brick and stone Gothic structure. By the spring of 1887, the place was already overcrowded.

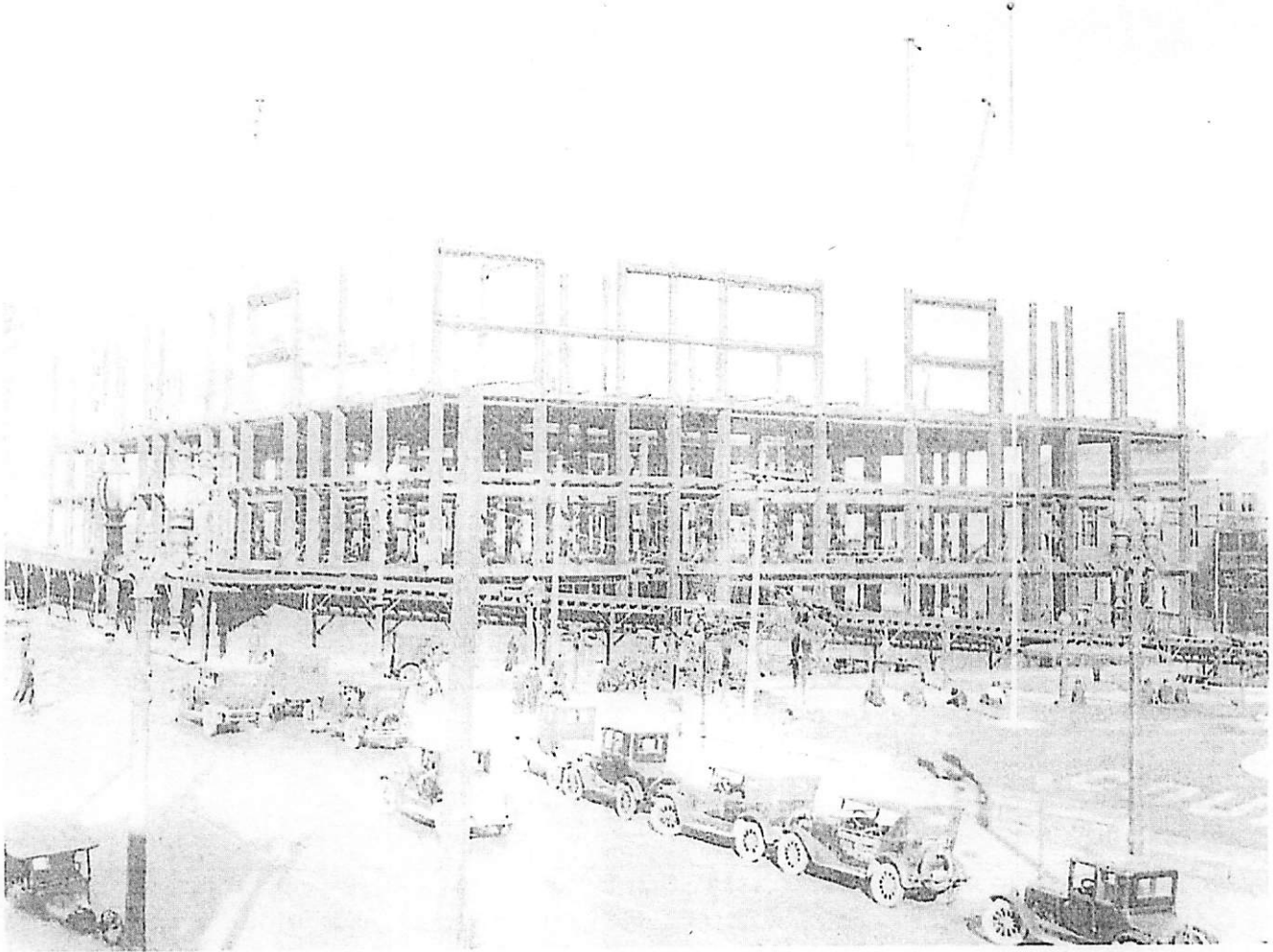
The city jail didn't fare any better, and by the 1890s even the police chief had begun complaining about the cramped quarters in the West 2nd Street building, which now held several hundred men, women and children in a space designed for a few dozen. “The atmosphere in there becomes so foul that it is cruelty to keep any human being

in it," The Times wrote in 1894. "The authorities cannot escape the fact that the jail is much too small for the size of the city."

So two years later, the city yet again opened a new jail, this time in a massive Richardson Romanesque building on 1st Street with room for twice as many prisoners as the old one. Within a year, it too was overcrowded. The police chief reported in 1903 that some prisoners had begun sleeping in hammocks and temporary cots, while others were forced to sleep standing up.

That same year, county supervisors green-lighted a 228-bed jail at the corner of Temple and Buena Vista. It was full by Christmas.

There wasn't enough money to keep building jails by that point, so local leaders enlisted inmates on the city's chain gang to build a stockade near Elysian Park to supplement the existing lockups.



A Los Angeles County Jail under construction in the 1920s. (Los Angeles Times)

“By 1910, Los Angeles already operated one of the largest jail systems in the country,” UCLA professor Kelly Lytle Hernández wrote in “City of Inmates,” her definitive history of Los Angeles jails.

Within a few short years, the local lockups were again beyond capacity. When Times reporters paid a visit to the city clink in 1916, they were horrified, describing the place as a “lice-ridden” and “hopelessly unsanitary” building with “unthinkably deplorable conditions” to which the “wealthy and prosperous city” could no longer be ignorant.

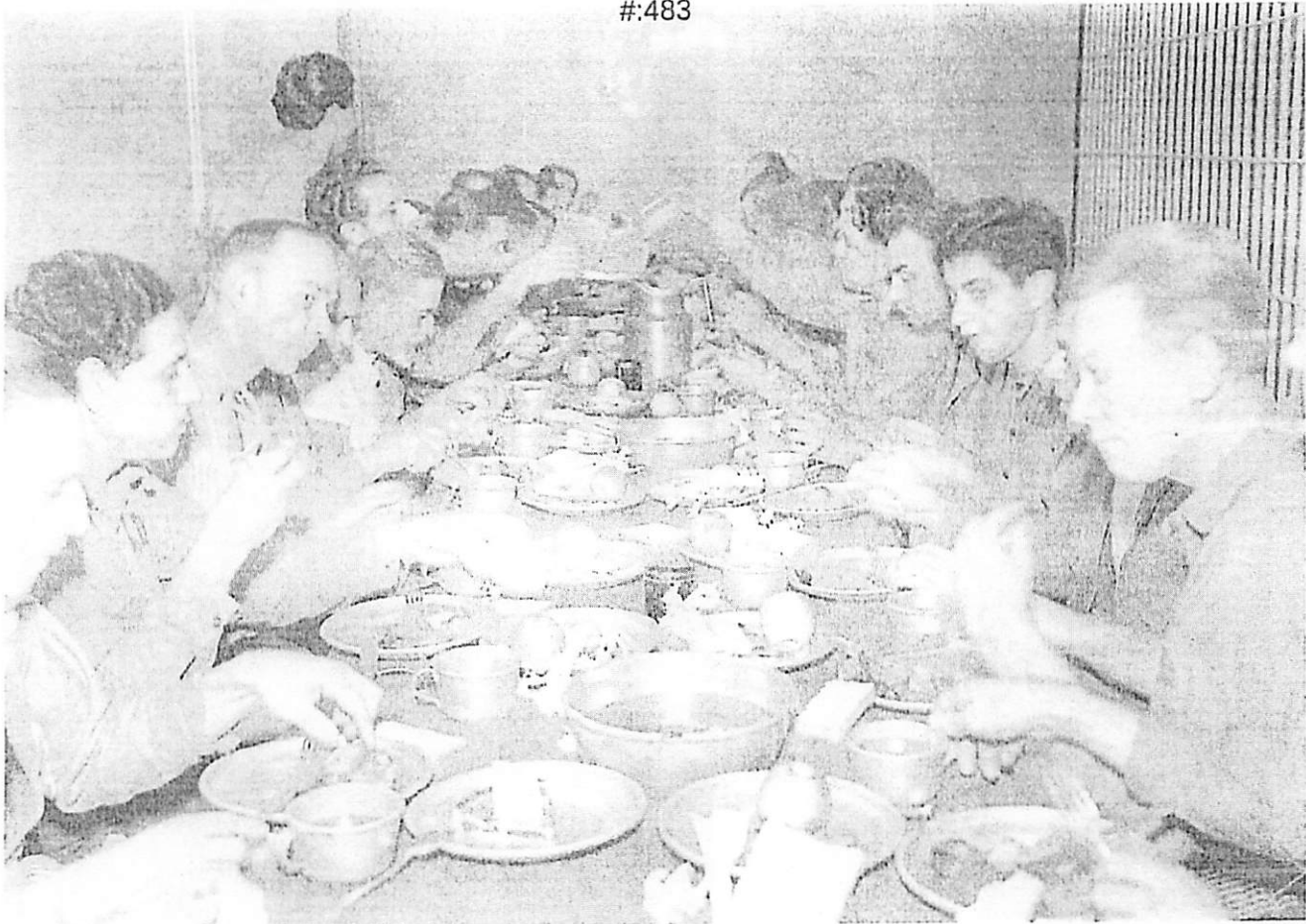
"How can we expect to make honest, healthy, reformed men by such unthinkable methods?" the paper asked. "If they come to jail sick they leave it worse. If they come in healthy and whole they leave it sick and dejected. There can be no excuse for such a state of affairs in modern times."

The solution, according to the paper, was to build a new jail. The plan was for a "first-class, modern, airy, hygienic, merciful City Jail." It would have sunlight and windows and would allow its prisoners access to towels, toothbrushes and the like. But those seemingly achievable goals turned out to be mostly aspirational for several years.

In the meantime, the city put up barracks for a prison farm in Griffith Park, which offered a little more freedom and sunlight for a couple of hundred arrestees. But inmates housed in the main jail continued to rot away in increasingly inhumane conditions.

And the county inmates weren't any better off.

In March 1921, men locked up at the Buena Vista County Jail rioted. By that point the place was so overcrowded — nearly 450 people lived in quarters intended for 200 — that The Times took the side of the rioting inmates.



Prisoners at the city jail sat down to a sumptuous Christmas dinner in 1935. (Los Angeles Times)

The spark for the unrest that spring was a literal flame: One man had been tossed in solitary confinement because he kept burning newspapers to heat his coffee. While in the jail "dungeon," he allegedly conspired with some of the other men incarcerated there.

Fed up with sleeping in vermin-infested hallways, men pounded on cell doors, broke everything breakable and then threw pieces of the debris at anyone who passed by the cell bars. The result was, as usual, redoubled calls for a new jail.

"Again and again The Times has cried aloud against these wretched, crime-hatching, disease-breeding jail abominations," the paper wrote. "For years it has urged the immediate construction of new jails and sanitary quarters for prisoners."

A few months later, local officials heeded that urge and ordered designs for a County Hall of Justice, a 12-story Renaissance building to house all city, county and federal prisoners in its top five stories. By the time the first stone was laid in 1925, the cost had ballooned to \$6 million.

Even that massive investment did not dampen the refrain of *build, overcrowd, repeat*. For the next few decades, it played out again and again in the all-caps headlines of The Times,



A fireman walks past a crowded jail cell during a riot at Los Angeles County Jail in 1953. (Los Angeles Times)

By 1958, the persistent crowding and poor conditions prompted one county supervisor to suggest building a 5-acre aerial jail-bridge, prompting the headline: "New Jail to Span Sunset Blvd."

Fortunately, that proposed monstrosity did not materialize.

But why is that solution — the hum of carceral construction — such a constant in the City of Angels? There may not be a singular answer. In a recent interview, Hernández mused: "Is it that Los Angeles has a fantasy of itself being some kind of sunny utopia and therefore it needs to eliminate populations that infringe on that fantasy?"

The area has long been home to some of the nation's largest Native, Black, Mexican and houseless populations, she said — all groups disproportionately targeted by incarceration. "So it follows that L.A. is one of the epicenters of incarceration," she said. "It doesn't mean we're apart from everyone else. We're in line with trends across the country."

Often, however, the Southland has been at the vanguard of carceral trends. By early 1963, the county was nearing completion on two new jails that the paper alleged would finally "End Overcrowding at Hall of Justice."



Inmates bed down and watch television in a chapel at Men's Central Jail in 1987. (Robert Gabriel/Los Angeles Times)

Together the buildings were expected to cost well over \$20 million. The smaller of the new lockups — named after philanthropist Sybil Brand — featured pink walls and was designed to hold 915 women at a site in East L.A.

The larger one was Men's Central Jail. Sitting on a 17-acre site downtown, it would hold 3,323 men. The Times described it then as "looking like a modernistic manufacturing plant."

Starting in the mid-1970s, the jails' deteriorating conditions ended up in the crosshairs of a series of federal lawsuits. When one of those cases — a class action filed on behalf of Men's Central Jail inmate Dennis Rutherford — went to trial in 1978, the inmates won.

Judge William P. Gray declared the jail conditions unconstitutional and ordered a series of changes: The county jails needed to start giving everyone a bunk instead of making people sleep on the floor. They needed to let prisoners outside for an hour a day instead of 2½ hours a week. They needed to stop waking inmates before 6 a.m. for 16-hour trips to local courts and give them clean clothes at least twice a week.

In the decades since, the county has failed to do many of those things. Within a few years of Gray's ruling, the jails were so packed that hundreds of still bunk-less inmates were given blankets and left to sleep on the roof.

Eventually the county built another massive downtown bastille known as the Twin Towers, a complex on the site of the city's 1924 plague outbreak. The \$373-million facility sat empty for several years because there was no money available to cover operating expenses. By the time the county's inmate population peaked in 1993, there were more than 23,000 people living in its jails.



A general population cell block in Men's Central Jail in October 2019. (Al Seib/Los Angeles Times)

But even as the number of people in custody began a halting downward slide, the debates about when and how to expand L.A.'s jail facilities continued.

With needs of its own, the city in 2006 began erecting a ~~\$74-million~~ lockup. And the county's facilities were still so far beyond capacity — and some, notably Men's Central Jail, in such disrepair — that conditions behind bars remained persistently abysmal, earning repeated rebukes from increasingly fed-up federal judges.

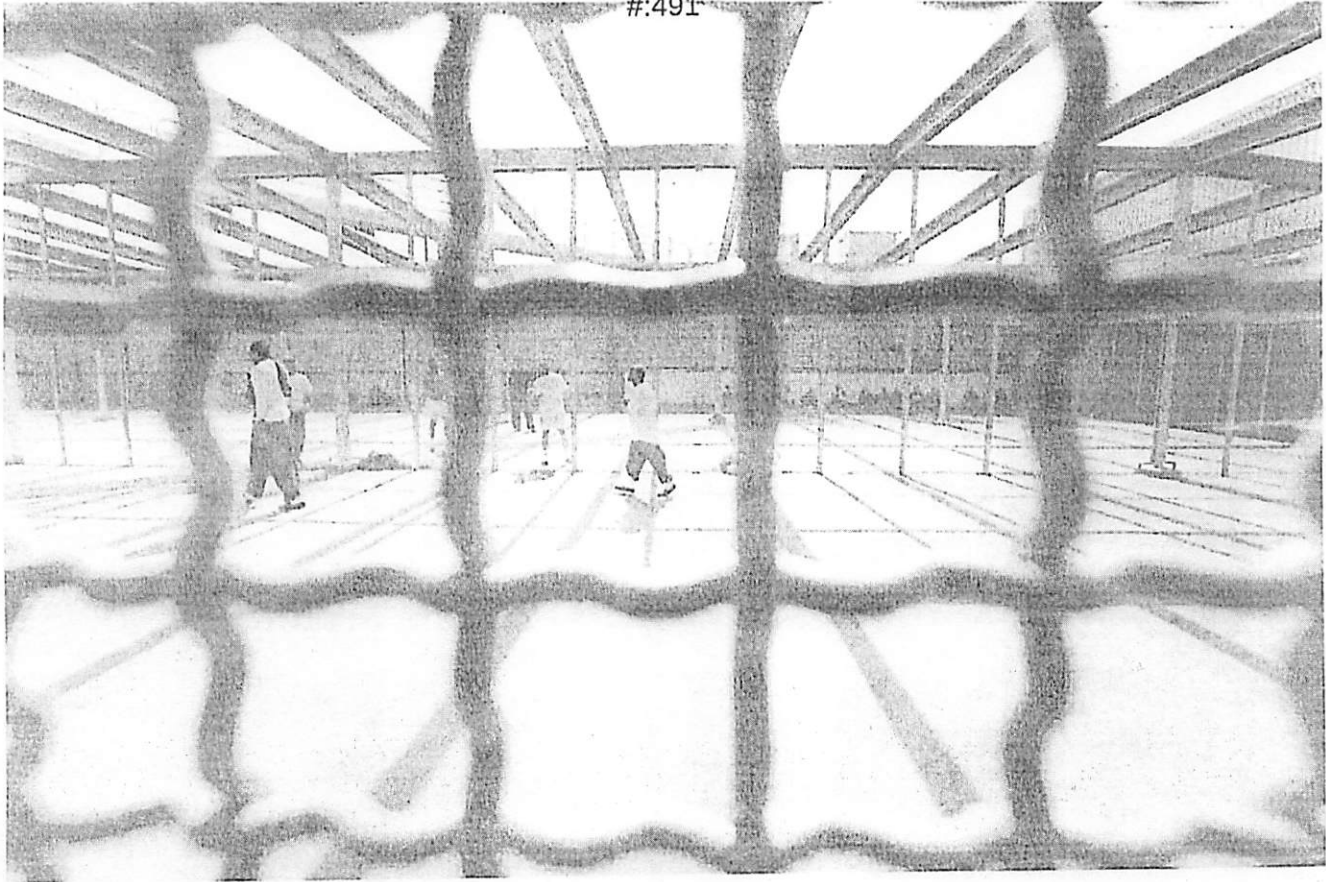
"In Men's Central Jail, cells designed for three inmates are filled with six," The Times wrote in 2010. "Last week, U.S. District Judge Dean D. Pregerson described the practice as 'simply not consistent with basic values,' noting that inmates did not even have the space to stand up and take a step or two."

By that point Gray was no longer on the bench, so it was Pregerson who'd taken over the Rutherford case and decided that the situation behind bars "should not be permitted to exist in the future."

More than a decade later, it remains. Pregerson is still overseeing that case, as well as a second one focused on violence meted out by deputies and a third centered on problems with care for mentally ill prisoners.

"Everyone is on edge because it is crowded," one inmate wrote in an affidavit filed in the Rutherford case two years ago. "The place smells of urine and excrement because some toilets don't work, and people who are chained to chairs sometimes pee on the floor because the deputies won't unchain them."

In recent months, jail inspectors have raised concerns about rats, roaches and feces-smear
ed cells. Some men have begun complaining they don't get enough food. This
spring inspectors found that some inmates in cells with no cold water had rigged up a
system to pass plastic bottles of it from cell to cell using strings. Just as in 1921, some
men light fires to heat drinks or turn metal bunks into makeshift griddles to get a
warm meal.



The main exercise yard on the roof of Men's Central Jail in April 2015. (Mark Boster/Los Angeles Times)

Although inmates are no longer chained to logs outside or sleeping on roofs, the glitchy HVAC systems mean the indoor temperatures sometimes drop into the 50s. Over the last two years, at least two inmates died after showing signs of hypothermia.

The jails still struggle to provide adequate sleeping quarters, and in recent years they've been caught leaving people to sleep on urine-soaked floors, using trash bags for blankets.

In 2019, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors scrapped its \$1.7-billion plan to replace the decaying Central Jail with a jail-like mental health facility and, for five years, tried to pursue a no-new-jails strategy, focusing instead on lowering the jail population.

For the first time in years, the number of people in local lockups dipped below 13,000. But this year, with crime rates and political pressure rising, Los Angeles leaders changed course, raising questions about how many people they can really divert from the jails and whether looming legal changes once again could cause the county's carceral population to balloon.

And so — after a pause — it resumes: Build, overcrowd, repeat.

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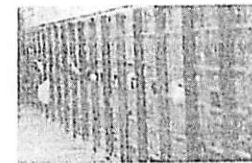
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Keri Blakinger

Keri Blakinger covers the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Before joining the Los Angeles Times in 2023, she spent nearly seven years in Texas, first covering criminal justice for the Houston Chronicle and then covering prisons for the Marshall Project. Blakinger was a 2024 Pulitzer Prize finalist in feature writing for her insightful, humane portrait, reported with great difficulty, of men on Death Row in Texas who play clandestine games of "Dungeons & Dragons," countering their extreme isolation with elaborate fantasy. Her work has appeared everywhere from the